BI-MONTHLY
▽THE MAGAZINE FOR BISEXUALS
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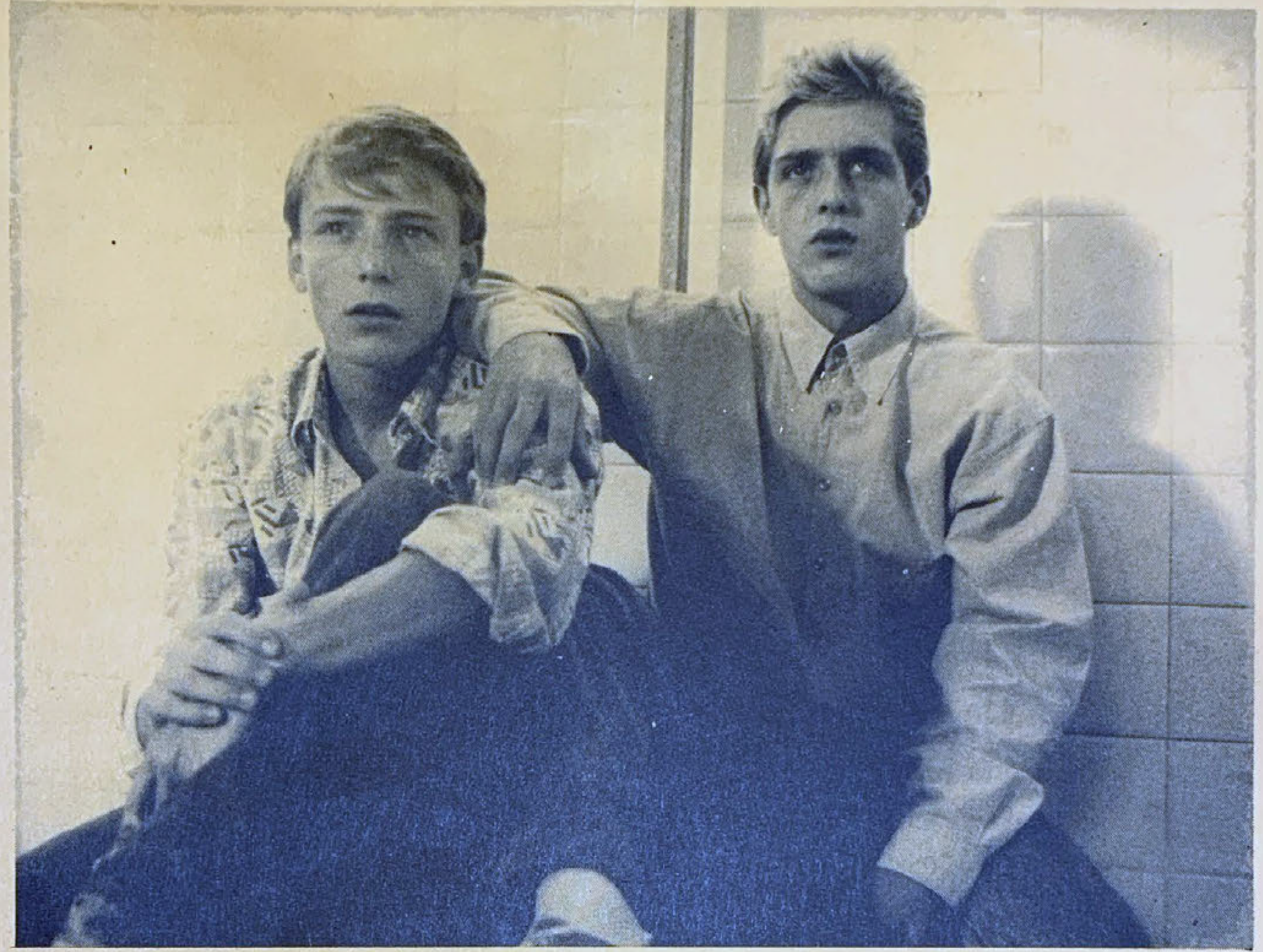

# BBC PLAY ON TEENAGE BISEXUALITY

- TWO OF US -

# MASTURBATION

- ONE IS FUN ! -

# CLAUSE 28

- POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMAGES -

# PERSONAL ADS

**Personal ads are FREE! And they can get you in touch with like-minded people all over the country. At present we keep them in for two issues. As you'll see your name or address are not advertised, only a box number.**

**TO REPLY TO A BOX NUMBER:- PUT YOUR LETTER(S) INTO AN UNADDRESSED PLAIN ENVELOPE WITH THE BOX NUMBER MARKED CLEARLY IN THE TOP RIGHT HAND CORNER, (SO WE CAN STICK A STAMP OVER IT). PUT THIS INTO A LARGER ENVELOPE, TOGETHER WITH LOOSE STAMP(S) AND SEND TO:- BI-MONTHLY, BOX NUMBER REPLIES, BOX BM-BI, LONDON WC1N 3XX.**

Get in touch with like-minded people!

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Information, advice and befriending. Staffed each Thursday by bisexual male and female volunteers.

**BISEXUAL PEN-PAL SCHEME**

The Pen-Pal scheme offers another way for bisexual people to write to eachother.

Details are circulated without surnames or addresses. Letters are forwarded by the organisers (ie in a box number system) so participants can write and receive letters without disclosing their identity, to others on the Scheme.

For details send an sae to: **Pen-Pal Scheme, Edinburgh Bisexual Group, 58a Broughton St, Edinburgh EH1 3SA.**

* * *

Bisexual male, 20, wanting real friends, m/f to write to (and meet). Interests include walking, canoeing, writing, literature & music. Write now! Box 19/1

Male, 38, based Central Southern England, with country cottage and silly dog seeks bi-women or couple (m/f) for a loving and committed relationship. Box 19/2

Belfast - is there a woman out there willing to show young tv (25) what it's like to be taken as a woman. (lesbian type of affair). Couples welcome. Box 19/3

Somerset:- Bi-lady, 29; happily married, would like to meet another bi-lady who would like to form a loving lasting relationship. I am loyal and loving with a sense of fun! (Hubby fully approves). Box 19/4

Manchester and area: Bi-female, single, 25, graduate wants to meet bi-females/bi-males 23-35. Into books, pubs, talking, having a good time when I'm not working and believe bisexuals have twice the fun! Anything you write to me is of course confidential, photo appreciated but not essential. Box 19/5

Feminist, bisexual, married woman needs like minded woman for friendship, fun & support. Life is becoming too serious. Bournemouth Area. Box 19/6

Mature bi-guy wishes to meet bi-ladies and TV's. Your place/my place, can travel within reason. Health conscious, photo if possible. Perth. Box 19/7

Bisexual architect living in attractive house in beautiful rural part of Ireland offers free holiday accommodation to individuals or couples in return for friendly companionship and honest open conversation. No sexual obligation. Box 19/8

Chelmford, Essex. Lean lanky, loveable lad, 32, looks for lascivious lads and lasses aged likewise to linger lustfully with. Living locally would be lovely. Box 19/9

Bi-male, a new subscriber, interested in new friends m/f. I'm 26, good looks and body, w/e, interests include sport, keepfit, multi-gym, safe sex. Anyone interested? I need a like-minded friend, please write! photo appreciated. Box 19/10

Older bi-guy seeks bi-lady, TV or lesbian for friendship and more, have own place, car and phone no. for yours. ALA. Photo would be nice. (Perth Dundee area). Box 19/11

Bi-male: graduate, slim, fit, non-smoker, 31. Coming to terms with suppressed homoerotic urges and insatiable curiousity about (other) men's sexuality. My girlfriend may guess but doesn't know. Right now I need a discreet friend (male, couple) like myself to write. Maybe later we could meet, talk or more. Travel widely in England and Wales. Avon/anywhere. Box 19/12

Bi-girl (17) seeks male or female friends (17-27) for friendship, relationship or fun & careful fling - please state which. Box 19/13

Middle aged (39+) would like to correspond/meet somebody keen on photography, travel and/or art. Any age, either sex. A photograph would be appreciated and returned together with mine. Box 19/14

Feminist, 23, confused about own sexuality. Likes: books; sex (when not confused); being analytical (but too lazy for jargon or logic); gossip and late-adolescent identity crises; being creatively perverse; writing poetry; & cats, wants women for friendship/relationship/correspondence. Box 19/15

LONDON: Bi-guy 24 into abstract art, loud music, socialist and anarchist politics, shy and not very experienced, seeks anyone male or female for friendship and maybe more. Box 19/16

Bisexual seeks others in the Staffordshire area. Hope to form a group or network. Box 18/1.

Midlands - young man (24) My fantasy - any kind, attractive, male teacher types out there? Do you seek a loyal friend? A.L.A. Photo please. Box 18/2.

Bisexual male, twenties, seeks male or female friends, for friendship, relationship, or brief fling, but please state which. Box 18/3.

Torbay - Male/Female Couple seek Bisexual man (21-35) for sincere friendship/relationship. Photo helps. A.L.A. Box 18/4.

Male Bisexual 40-ish based Northern Ireland - but will travel. Wishes to contact bi-girls/ lesbians for frank exchange of letters, phone calls and possible relationship. Accommodation available Belfast (quiet area). Confidentiality assured. Photo appreciated - but not essential. Box 18/5.

Bi-male, married, aged 34. Slim build, very clean. Seeks single bi-males/bi-females/couples for good clean sexual fun. Your place only. Will travel or correspond. Photo if possible, but not essential. Box 18/6.

Manchester - male, single, 29, graduate, bisexual, hopes to meet like-minded people (male and female) for warm, loving friendship and sharing life's pleasures: music, theatre, travel,etc. Photo appreciated, confidence respected. Box 18/7.

Attractive Asian Bi-guy, slim, 27, 5'10", 9 stone, non-smoker, non-scene so feels cut off. Seeks one sincere, genuine, attractive slim partner, under 33 for full exciting relationship. Interest include travel, music, massage, videos, nights in and out and much more. Own place in London. Photo assures mine. Box 18/8.

*We would like to apologise to:- "Lowestoft - I would welcome contacts with any M or F bi's in the locality bearing in mind I am married - wife aware, 39, professional occupation. Box 18/9."*

*Somehow your ad got lost. A chance in a million, the persons responsible are being dealt with. Please write to tell us who you are!*

BI-MONTHLY
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THIS ISSUE: -

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Left - Phil (played by Lee Whitlock)
Right - Matthew (played by Jason Rush)
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# NEWS ~ In Brief

### BLACK BISEXUALS BLAMED FOR AIDS

A particularly unpleasant leaflet is being distributed on housing estates in North London blaming 'black bisexuals' for the increasing number of women with AIDS. The leaflet is both racist and homophobic. **If you come across any of these (or any other anti-bisexual material) please let Bi-Monthly know.**

### BISEXUAL PEN-PAL SCHEME LAUNCHED

**At the 5th National Conference on Bisexuality, Edinburgh Bisexual Group announced the setting up of a National Pen-Pal Scheme. They are also helping to get people together to form local groups. For more info phone the Bisexual Phoneline, or write - SEE 'Personal Ads', Page 2.**

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES PUB

Mike Stanton, new Manager of 'The Bird in Hand' pub (also known as 'The Grasped Cock') in Crouch End, told Bi-Monthly that he aims to provide a place for people to go regardless of colour, class or sexual orientation. He adds to the atmosphere by appearing in cabaret, at the pub, as Dame Agnes Average. We are told the place is 'mixed' and fun.

### READING MATTERS BOOKSHOP UNDER ATTACK

**READING MATTERS is a community bookshop, in North London, which is partially funded by the local council. The press has launched a viscious onslaught, headed by the Sunday Telegraph, picking on left wing and Anarchist books in the shop.**

On 10th March, the Evening Standard claimed that 'A magazine for bi-sexuals called Bi-Monthly' has an article promoting paedophilis'.

The immediate result of the publicity has been hate letters, bomb threats, a smashed window and abuse from people coming into the shop.

The Prime Minister announced in the Commons that a Home Office and Department of Education inquiry will be held into the shop with a "view to take action" and withdraw funding.

**The shop has been under attack for some time, from a right wing 'Parent's Rights' group, whose main target has in the past been Harringey's 'Positive Images' policy.**

### WANTED - Bisexual Males for - PROJECT SIGMA

**Up to now the only statistics quoted on AIDS, by the Government have been from studies made at STD Clinics, which, of course, is not a totally representative sample of gay and bisexual men.**

**Project SIGMA is gay run, and is seeking a wider range of men, to .get a more accurate picture. They hope to be able to provide more realistic information about the sexual lifestyles of gay and bisexual men, during, and at the end of the three year study.**

**The project has research teams nationwide and is interested in interviewing people from all over the country. They are taking great care to ensure that all information will be kept confidential.**

**If you would like to provide information that will help the understanding and fighting of AIDS:- phone 01-928 8989 ex.2877, or write (no stamp needed) to:-**

**Project SIGMA, South Bank Polytechnic,**
**FREEPOST, London SE1 0BR**

# BIGOT'S CHARTER

**On Wednesday 12th March the House of Commons voted by 254 to 201 in favour of the infamous Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill. With Royal Assent it becomes law in June, as Section 28 of the Local Government Act.**

The history of the Clause goes back to December 1986, when Lord Halsbury introduced **'An Act to restrain local authorities from promoting homosexuality'** into the Lords.

Jill Knight adopted the Local Government Bill into the Commons, but it was prevented from becoming law by the arrival of the 1987 General Election.

At first there was little opposition to the Clause, introduced in October 1987 by David Wilshire (Con, Spelthorne). Labour members did not force a vote in the standing committee. The initial acceptance of the clause by the Labour front bench marked a complete u-turn by Labour, which had passed pro-gay resolutions in its 1985 and 1986 Party Conferences.

The Report Stage of the Bill took place on Monday 14th December. There followed a number of lobbies, meetings and petitions and demonstrations. More than 800 gathered at the House of Commons, in the largest lobby of Parliament since Cruise Missiles arrived.

**The Organisation for Lesbian and Gay Action organised a march in London on Saturday January 9th. Around 8000 marched on a route that took them past the Houses of Parliament and Downing Street (where part of it stopped for 20 minutes until forced to move on, gaining the march no. 2 slot on ITV News). This was marred by violent and provocative behaviour by the police, who arrested thirty-eight protestors including two women, for kissing.**

The attack on human rights, which the Clause represents, was opposed by many organisations, including the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. A strong Arts Lobby has developed which is aiming to fight the use of the Clause to censor the Arts.

It became more respectable to oppose the Clause, and a number of ammendments were put forward by Labour and by the Liberals.

**After one crucial vote in the Commons, there was uproar in the public gallery when the Clause was passed on its way to the Lords.**

Here the biggest ever lobby of the Lords took place with many receiving 200 letters or more. However the Lords voted by 202 to 122. After it had been passed there was protest from the public gallery, and cheers for three lesbians who abseiled their way down into the chamber.

**There were 20 000 demonstrators at Britain's biggest ever lesbian and gay march on 20th February, organised by the North West Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Equality. There were also demonstrations in Edinburgh and Cardiff.**

### WHAT CLAUSE 28 SAYS:-

**Clause 28 now reads:**

**1) "A local authority shall not:**

**(a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality;**

**(b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship.**

**2) Nothing in subsection 1) shall be taken to prohibit the doing of anything for the purpose of treating or preventing the spread of disease.**

**3) In any proceedings in connection with the application of this section a court shall draw such inferences as to the intention of the local authority as may reasonably be drawn from the evidence before it.**

### WHAT CLAUSE 28 MEANS:-

Much of the fighting in courts is going to take place around the meaning of the word 'promote'. The Government has made the Clause deliberately ambiguous, but there are Right Wing Tories who would like to see all forms of homosexuality re-criminalised. To them, Gay Switchboards are 'promoting homosexuality'. The Tories said the bill was to contain the excesses of the 'loony left' Councils, typified by Harringey, with their 'Positive Images' policy for schools.

In London the London Boroughs Grant Scheme has given a full years grant to the groups (apart from the Lesbian Policing Project) it funds, but making that of the **Outcast Theatre Company** subject to a further report once the bill becomes law. There are sure to be homophobic groups that take the councils to court.

There are going to be a handful of test cases in which the extent of the withdrawl of funding will be decided. Other questions that are going to have to be answered are whether Councils will no longer hire out their premises to lesbian and gay groups, and whether or not Councils will refuse to give lesbian and gay pubs and clubs their licences. There are sure to be homophobic councils which do this.

Clause 28 has already prompted official prejudice:-

In Woolwich the police have jumped the gun and went 'round to tell the manging agent of the building in which the Greenwich Lesbian and Gay Centre is situated, that the Centre was to lose its funding, and would become illegally occupied.

**Last month a teacher in Bradford was sacked becuase he answered questions from fifth formers about him being gay.**

*** For info & comment on Clause 28 see p.24 ***

# OLGA Stalls On Bisexuality

**There is a growing recognition of bisexuality amongst lesbian and gay organisations. The newly formed Organisation for Lesbian and Gay Action, has become the most visible campaigning group. However it representatives have consistently failed to mention bisexuality, or consider its relevance in discussions on Clause 28.**

**In a January Campaign meeting a woman was not allowed to join OLGA's 'lesbian mother caucus', because she identifies as bisexual. OLGA's first Annual General Meeting took place in Manchester on December 5th and 6th 1987. Around 80 people turned up. Martin Burgess put forward a proposal for a bisexual caucus and describes what happened:-**

## MERGER WITH CHE REJECTED!

A motion proposed by the OLGA Management Committee (which had preceded the EC) for OLGA to enter into negotiations with the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) was rejected amid hostility to CHE. CHE itself had already set up a Commission to enter into merger discussions, and find out the views of its members. Instead of considering merger, the OLGA EC was instructed to talk with CHE about a closer relationship.

## OLGA'S CAUCUS VETO SYSTEM

OLGA has seven caucuses, for the seven 'specially oppressed groups' (lesbian, lesbian mother, black and minority ethnic, people with disabilities, young lesbians and gays, older lesbians and gays, and young people in care). Motions submitted by OLGA members, must first be cleared by the caucuses, who have the power of veto, and can prevent discussion by the majority.

On the first day, the veto system went into operation, on a proposal for a 'gay pedofile caucus with full veto rights'. The lesbian and black and minority ethnic caucuses vetoed the motion, and the latter vetoed discussion, to the disapproval of the majority. Of the three members of the Black and Minority Ethnic Caucus present, two abstained and one voted against. The following day the vetoes were withdrawn, and two minutes allowed for a speech from each side. The motion was heavily defeated.

A more revealing insight into the undemocratic workings of the veto system was obtained when Terry Conway stated that the use of the veto should prove to be unnecessary. As an example she explained that the Youth Caucus were going to make a proposal on the 'age of consent', but on the request of the lesbian caucus, they'd decided to discuss the issue with the lesbians first!

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The meeting decided that there should also be a Scottish Symposium, like a caucus, but without veto rights.

## BISEXUAL CAUCUS NOT DISCUSSED!

In addition, I proposed that **'there should be a bisexual caucus with full veto rights.'** This was seconded by Sharley Maclean. I sent a discussion document to all OLGA members:-

**AIMS -** To ensure that the concept of bisexuality is not left out of lesbian and gay campaign work.
To develop the awareness and acceptance of bisexuality.
To try to build a positive image of bisexuality, and to make it one that challenges our heterosexual society.
To provide a presently needed focus for bisexuals within the lesbian and gay movement from which campaigning and action can be achieved in the fight for lesbian and gay rights, towards lesbian and gay liberation.
To provide a place for those groups and individuals who have faced discrimination from within the lesbian and gay communities, and within lesbian and gay politics.

**REASONS-** Most lesbian and gay campaign literature fails to mention 'bisexuality' (including OLGA's), despite there being a large number of bisexuals in society.
The worst consequence of this is:-

it enables society to perpetuate the myth that everyone is either gay or straight.

Given this polarisation of sexuality it is not surprising that most bisexuals will repress their gay side. This is not only harmful to them, but also harmful politically, as it prevents them from being drawn into the struggle for lesbian and gay rights.
Surely it is the task of lesbian and gay liberation to free the homosexuality in everyone.
This requires a bisexual identity and that bisexuality is a recognised part of the lesbian and gay movement.
The political bisexual movement recognises that it is the homosexual side that is oppressed, and therefore also identifies as lesbian or gay. In the wider terms of sexual liberation we hope that we can also work towards a breaking down of the heterosexual role models to which people are forced to conform.
The failure of the lesbian and gay movement to consider bisexuality will result in the continuing ghettoisation of homosexuality, politically and socially, which is exactly what straight society wants, as it poses very little threat to the sexist and heterosexist society.

The most positive aspect of having a bisexual caucus, is that it would be a sign that OLGA genuinely recognises one of the ultimate aims of 'lesbian and gay liberation' as freeing the homoerotic desire that exists in society.

## BISEXUAL WOMEN WALK OUT AND RESIGN!

At the AGM the Lesbian Caucus said that it needed more time to talk about bisexuality. I complained that I believed the move to be one of censorship, and that I should be allowed to speak on the motion I had put forward. While I was saying this two women walked out. They explain why in this letter to OLGA.

Dear OLGA,

We have to resign, sadly. This is why:

We have encountered bigotry in OLGA. As we also encounter it everywhere else, we don't feel inclined to put up with it from people who we presumed to be fighting oppression and prejudice. In yesterday's full meeting members of OLGA hissed when bisexuality was mentioned. The unpopularity of the speaker is not a good enough reason for this behaviour, which we found personally offensive and generally infantile and counter-productive.

We were not in favour of setting up a bisexual caucus. Firstly we would find it as impossible to work in a caucus with pedophiles as we would to work with those lesbians who make cheap jibes when we identified as bisexual. Further we were confident that we could represent our interests without the 'protection' of a caucus. Proliferation of caucuses can only fuel the unwillingness of some members to build the trust and good faith necessary for OLGA to work.

If lesbians and gays are as rigid in their definitions as the heterosexual society we are fighting, they will be walking out of one closet into another. This weekend we have even met lesbians who dare not admit their straight sexual relationships to other lesbians. It isn't progress to replace one oppression with another.

We shall continue to fight homophobia in every way we can, as we hope OLGA will.

Good luck and best wishes for the future,
Phyllis Moore and deborah Delano.

# 'Bisexual Lives'

## Off Pink Publishing Launch First Book

**It is available at last! 'BISEXUAL LIVES' is the first book written by bisexuals about bisexuals in a world where the literature on the subject is minimal.**

It was almost exactly two years ago that I wrote in Bi-Monthly requesting help in skills and in money for the project. Now, on 21st April, the book all 114 pages of it, is to be published by **Off Pink Publishing**, the collective within our own movement which has been working on it for so long.

**BISEXUAL LIVES**, as the name implies, is a collection of profiles of the varied experiences and problems encountered in the lives of people who identify as bisexual (seven women and five men). Interspaced between these are shorter comments and quotes on a wide variety of topics from long term relationships and families to sex and celibacy. Another section deals with the individual and sexual implications of AIDS for bisexuals, and there is much useful information including a bibliography.

At a time when the Lesbian and Gay and the Bisexual Movements are under such pressure from Government legislation, we need to give ourselves greater identity and support and spread a better understanding and awareness of bisexuality to the world at large. This is an extremely relevant book, helping to do both.

The Off Pink Collective would like to thank all those who have contributed to the content of **BISEXUAL LIVES** and all those who have donated or loaned money. Without them the project would not have been possible. We do however need help in distributing the book as widely as possible, and appeal for **your** help in doing this. You will find an application form with this magazine for you to order your copy at only £2.95 + postage. If you can spread further leaflets, please make a note on the form and we shall be glad to send you some.

## YOU Are Invited To The Party!

**May we also take this opportunity to invite you to come to the Fallen Angel, Graham St, Islington on Monday 25th April. Be there at 7 for Press Launch at 7.30pm, or if you're shy of the publicity, but still want to meet the stars, including Tom Robinson, come at 8.30pm (see back page for details), and share in the celebration party. You could even buy a copy, and meet some of the people whose lives are featured. We very much hope that you will come!**

**Off Pink Publishing, 21 Nassington Road, London NW3.**

# BIGGEST EVER BISEXUAL CONFERENCE

**The hard work paid off for the Edinburgh Bisexual Group which organised and hosted the Fifth National Conference on Bisexuality, held on October 17th & 18th, 1987.**

One hundred and nineteen people attended, making this the biggest yet. They enjoyed a weekend packed with a choice of interesting workshops. Here are just a few extracts from a report on the Conference. **For your copy, send £1 plus large sae to:- Edinburgh Bisexual Group, Lesbian and Gay Community Centre, 58a Broughton St, Edinburgh.**

Martin - Having a break between workshops

"..the thorniest issue was that some women felt there was a dilemma between feminism and bisexuality. Some wondered if they were just copping out and that to be a real feminist you had to be one hundred percent lesbian, devoting all your time and energy to women. Pretty much everybody agreed that all in all it was ok to be a bisexual feminist, for a variety of reasons. Most of us also saw women's liberation as an autonomous thing - though there were varying degrees on that." - Janet

**".......women in the organising group welcomed transexual women to women-only workshops, but many women there had never even met a ts before. And many of them had pre-conceived ideas, political views and even prejudices. In Edinburgh and elsewhere such preconceptions have led to ts women being thrown out of women-only social spaces, without discussion and with anger. At the conference there was no hostility from women who weren't happy with the idea - their answer was to talk about it."** - Kate

"One thing that the conference brought home to me with inescapable force was the fact that I am indeed a member of an oppressed minority, who until recently were ashamed of their feelings, didn't dare speak the truth to the majority for fear of being ostracised, and generally tried to make their lives fit into the mould dictated by society at large, with consequent serious effects on themselves." - Greg

**"One of the issuses that seemed to permeate most of of the workshops was gay and lesbian attitudes to bisexuals and whether bisexuals would find it useful/are finding it useful to align themselves politically with the lesbian and gay movement in general. There seemed to be a general amount of positive feeling about the latter."** - Hey Nonny Maus

"At the beginning of the Building a Bisexual Movement workshop there were four of us. By the end there were six! Were we witnessing the growth of a bisexual movement!"

- Martin

**"One last word about the conferences as a whole: it was full of laughter and freedom and all the good things about people getting together that should permeate our lives all the time." - Hey Nonny Maus**

# 'Homosexuality and Liberation'

## Part Two - 'The Oedipus Complex'

**By Martin Burgess**

**In the last issue of Bi-Monthly, I started a series of articles to look at the ideas contained within the book 'Homosexuality and Liberation', by Mario Mieli.**

**Mieli's a gay man who builds a whole theory of gay liberation on the concept of everyone being born with the potential to be bisexual; to be more precise, born with an undifferentiated desire, which is 'trans-sexual' in that it knows no division of gender.** This is one of the subversive elements of Freud's theories picked up by gays and feminists.

The **Oedipus Complex** was Freud's attempt at explaining how 'normal' heterosexuals are formed, within the family.

Freud's theory was that: **the male child is said to want to possess his mother sexually and to kill his father, fear of castration by the father forcing him to repress this wish.**

Shulamith Firestone, an American feminist accepted that this could not be taken literally, but that **'the value of the Oedipus complex lies in its metaphors and can make sense in terms of power'.**

Both she and Mieli saw the Oedipus Complex as negative, resulting from the imposition of various 'family values' and the operation of taboos. Firestone highlights the resulting sexism, and Mieli the resulting homophobia, both of which are acknowledged as being central to the perpetuation of the nuclear family.

Starting with Firestone:-

Society requires that women as 'mothers' love their children unconditionally, so children, male and female will intitially love the mother (with the sexual responses integrated with the physical and emotional ones). It is only the incest taboo that demands the divorce of 'emotional' and 'sexual' and the repression of any conscious sexual desire for the mother.

The traditional nuclear family makes the male the boss. Whereas the child is fed, dressed and made a fuss of by the mother, father provides discipline and both mother and child must please and appease him. This explains the early identification with the mother, and fear of the father.

At the age of six or so, father takes an interest in the boy and starts to ensure that he enjoys masculine pastimes and sports. The boy is offered the travel and adventure of growing up a man, in contrast to the limited lives of women. This is the difficult 'transitional phase' in which normal boys repress the deep emotional attachment to the mother and their desire to kill their father, and emerge into the honourable state of manhood.

It is no wonder that such a transition leaves such an emotional residue, a 'complex'. The boy feels guilty about betraying his mother and joining ranks with her oppresser. His emotions towards women in general are effected. She goes on to say **'Most men have an all to beautiful transition into power over others; some are still trying.'**

**According to Freud 'homosexuality' is the inverted solution of the Oedipus complex:-**

'After the initial, but prolonged mother-centredness, at the end of puberty the time comes to exchange the mother for another sexual object. Things take a sudden turn; the young man does not abandon his mother, but identifies himself with her.'

The theory goes that the boy identifying with his mother is gay, the one identifying with the father is straight.

Mieli does not believe in the exclusive identification of gay men with their mothers but states that many gay men are aware of an identification with the mother as well as the father, unlike heterosexual men, who generally only identify with their father. He sees this as emphasising 'the trans-sexual ambiguity of our being-in-becoming', which in its turn 'makes us closer to the child's way of being.'

**The main discrepency of Freud's logic is that he looks for a reason for homosexuality, after already having described its universality in young children (who are 'polymorphous' and 'perverse').**

Freud admits that this 'early' bisexuality makes the situation very complicated, but he fails to deal with it in his theories. A more realistic view, according to Mieli is that it is the anti-homosexual taboo (on top of the incest taboo) that stops the boy from desiring his father, and makes him straight.

'The homosexual will be someone for whom, because of a rich predisposition to homoeroticism, or for those to whom the the anti-homosexual taboo is not so violently applied.'

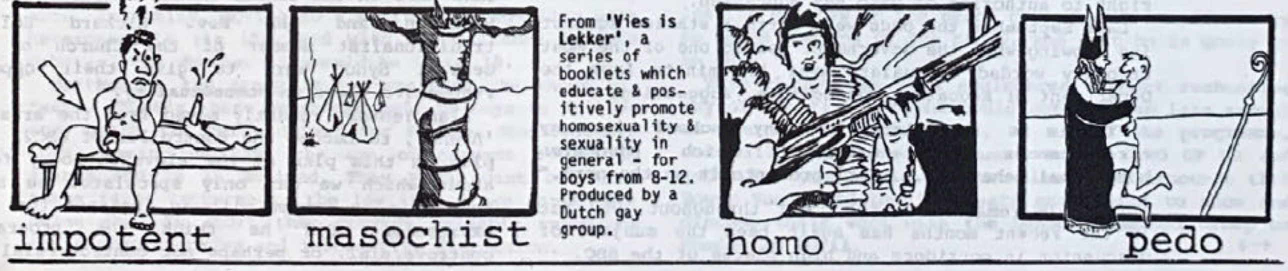
Mieli's explanation for the fact that most gay men are exclusively gay, as opposed to bisexual, is that, 'oppression forces the homosexual to wage a constant struggle against both his external persecutors and his induced sense of guilt, the persecutor within, with a view to defending his homoerotic desire, concentrating all his libidinal energy into this'.

He puts it to us that the liberation of homosexuality in society will lead to the rediscovery on the part of gay people of their erotic desire for people of the other sex.

Mieli sees that homosexual desire threatens the self-perpetuating Oedipus complex, with the rôles it imposes. He finishes his chapter on Oedipus by emphasising the importance of childhood sexuality:-

**'We revolutionary queens see the child not so much Oedipus or the future Oedipus, but as the potentially free human being.'**

**If you ever wonder why the straight world make such a fuss about 'Positive Images of Homosexuality', which they see as 'the promotion of homosexuality'; and why they use 'pedofilia' as a stick to beat the gay movement with, it is because of the revolutionary potential of lesbian and gay liberation. Mieli saw that liberation as working towards (what we know now as) 'bisexuality', and beyond.**



From 'Vies is Lekker', a series of booklets which educate & positively promote homosexuality & sexuality in general - for boys from 8-12. Produced by a Dutch gay group.

# NOT IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN!

The BBC made a crisis out of a drama when they shelved the tv programme for schools, TWO OF US.

David Burkle gets behind the scenes to bring us the full story:-

## BBC BRINGS US END OF TERM TREAT!

The two part drama, written by Leslie Stewart, was commissioned by BBC Schools TV for its 'Scene' series, which is highly regarded by teachers for its contribution to social and personal education. It has **not** however been shown to schools, instead being put on late on a Friday night (11.30-12.30), on a day on which some schools have already broken up for Easter.

**Bi-Monthly** was consulted over the script before shooting commenced in the Summer of 1986. The programme was originally to have been shown in February 1987 with the title **"Mates"** but was withdrawn from the schedules three months before that, because it was felt "it would be difficult for teachers to use the programmes in the manner intended, in the light of the heated public debate going on at the time about sex education". This debate was brought about by the 1986 Education Act, which gives school governers the right to authorise or veto sex education.

Last September the odds were further stacked against its showing when the Government issued one of the most strongly worded circulars ever to eminate from the Department of Education and Science, suggesting,

**"There is no place in any school in any circumstances [for material] which advocates homosexual behaviour....[or] presents it as the norm."**

The film remained on the shelf throughout 1987 but in the recent months has again been the subject of discussion in corridors and high places of the BBC.

Phil (left) and Matthew (right) - Talking in the swimming pool changing room.

It seems that the date for showing the programmes have been on and off as often as a strippers 'G' string; what the Guardian referred to as,

**"The BBC favouring the withdrawl method."**

The Times Educational Supplement 'Off Air' column revealed on 19th February that the film was passed by the Secondary Committee of the Eductional Broadcasting Council in October 1987 and in an unprecedented move referred to Bill Cotton, Managing Director of BBC TV, who also passed it fit for late night viewing so that teachers could preview it before showing it to their classes.

The Scotsman (20.2.88) made it known that the original intention was to show the the two parts on February 17 and 18th, followed on Friday 19th by a special late night edition of 'Open to Question', BBC Scotland's networked discussion programme.

Fifty puils from all over Britain were lined up to take part in the debate in BBC's Glasgow studios. Tom Robinson and the Rev. Richard Holloway, a traditionalist member of the Church of England's General Synod were to give their opposing and respective views on homosexuality.

Alan Yentob, recently moved from the arts programme 'Arena', to become the controller of BBC2, pulled the plug on this plan at the eleventh hour, for reasons about which we can only speculate. We believe Mr Yentob is an artist with an instinct for freedom of expression. Did he think the programmes too controversial, or perhaps not controversial enough to take up peak viewing time three nights in a row? Critics of the BBC point to the program makers who have been saying that there is a tremendous amount of **self-censorship** in the BBC. There are others who say that the Government is succeeding in gaining more extensive control of BBC output through key appointments. It is clear that the fearful climate brought about by **Clause 28** has put the BBC under pressure.

Undoubtedly, as well as considering the imponderable question of what actually constitutes 'promotion' of homosexuality, the discussions will have focussed particularly on whether the homoerotic potential of the swimming pool and beach scenes are too strong for these timid times.

The fact remains this is a sensitive portrayal of a normal experience - **a positive image.** The importance of such images was emphasised by Tom Robinson in his interview with The Scotsman. The newspaper gave him and the Rev. Holloway the opportunity to put the arguments they would have made in 'Open to Question', under the headline **'THE GAY DEBATE THE BBC SHELVED'.**

The Rev. Holloway spoke of the way in which lesbians and gays are 'trying to manipulate sexual development' which 'is often not complete until a person is in their early twenties'. He fails to understand that heterosexual manipulation has for centuries delayed people's sexual development well into their thirties and forties, if not for life.

Bi-Monthly spoke to Roger Tonge, producer and director of Two of Us recently and asked how he felt now a decision had at last been made to show his films.

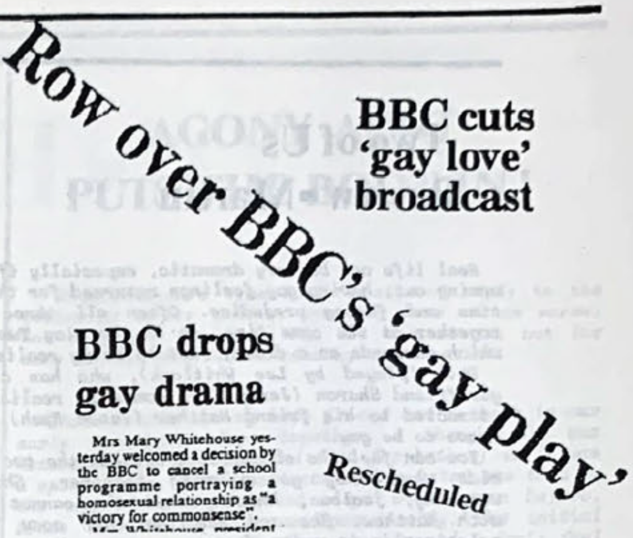
**"A tremendous relief", he said, "that in spite of the backlash of the bigots, what I regard as one of the best (some bias here, I admit) resources for teenagers so far produced in this area is going to be made available. By any definition, even with the changed ending, Matthew and Phil's relationship is a positive one. In spite of the paradox that something for teenagers is going out late at night, the primary intention - that it is for teenagers - is clear, as indicated by the letter we are sending to every secondary school."**

Roger went on to tell us that the letter will accompany the teacher's notes for the programme, which have in part been written by Dr. Martin Gay, consultant child psychologist, and will urge teachers to find out all the resources in their area for young gay people who share the feelings of the characters in the film. The notes also recommend reassurance that there is nothing wrong with feelings of this kind, even if they are a passing phase.

## 'Age of Consent'

The teachers notes also contain a reminder of the law and set out the contrasting political points of view. The Conservative Party's introduction of Clause 28 is compared with the Labour Party Manifesto recommending an 'age of consent' of 18 for homosexual acts, initially, moving to a position of equality with heterosexuals (ie 16), and with the Alliance Party's debates over whether it should be 16 or 18.

Matthew in the story is not confused, he knows his facts, "That's where we should be", he says to Phil as they watch the ferry depart for France. The teachers notes remind us that the age of consent is 15 in France and 16 in Holland. They also point out that there is no recourse to the law if you are sacked for being gay. In short they provide valuable resources for a comprehensive and informative discussion.



Row over BBC's 'gay play'

BBC cuts 'gay love' broadcast

BBC drops gay drama

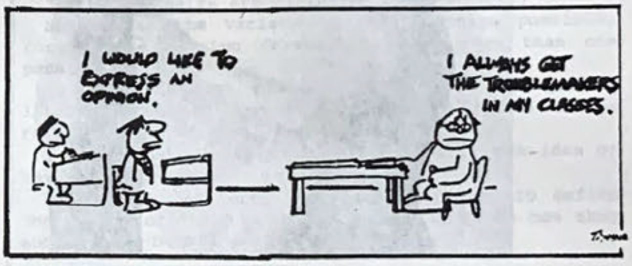
Mrs Mary Whitehouse yesterday welcomed a decision by the BBC to cancel a school programme portraying a homosexual relationship as "a victory for commonsense".

Rescheduled

Roger Tonge's enthusiasm for this project bubbles out all over when he talks about it. We asked him what gave him his special interest - **Is he gay?**

**"I'm staying faithful to the script here"**, he said, **"'Homo, 'Bi', 'Hetero', it's all labels, it's all part of the con. You might like to know though, that I find the sanest attitudes to sexuality in Bi-Monthly."**

**"What makes it one of the most important experiences of my life, as a director, was the commitment with which the young actors worked on this film."**



I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS AN OPINION.
I ALWAYS GET THE TROUBLEMAKERS IN MY CLASSES.

## The plot thickens!

Bi-Monthly can reveal that as well as altering the title to avoid association with Richard Branson's condoms, the story has changed while the film has been waiting on the shelf.

If we had seen it in February 1987 Phil would have gone off to the station to return to London with his girlfriend, but at the last moment would have appeared alone on the cliff top, on his way to rejoin Matthew on the beach. Producer Tonge tells us that the new ending is dramatically stronger and will not leave people so obviously pleased or displeased, depending on which side they are on. "It will 'leave stronger reverberations', making the whole thing more open and thought-provoking. Phil now does go off with Sharon, leaving Matthew on the beach confident that this is by no means the end of the story, and that he is going to be okay."

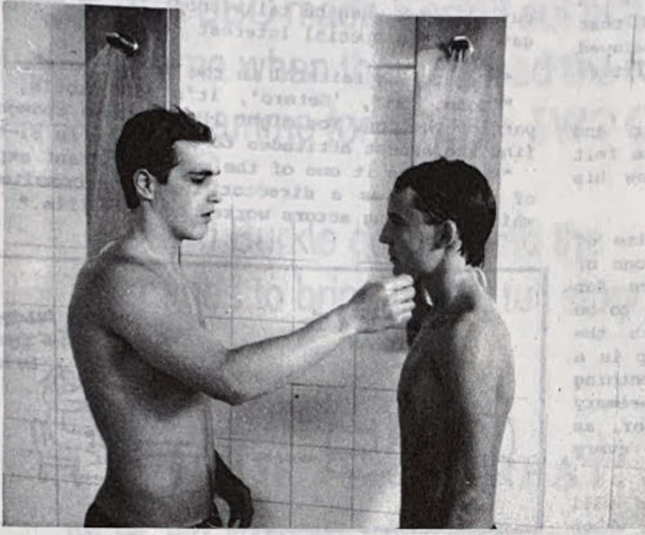
**This change has been engineered without reshooting any of the film. If you could not stay up late enough to see whether this works, or missed the programme, you will have a second chance to see TWO OF US and judge for yourselves. We are pleased to announce that Roger Tonge and Leslie Stuart are coming to show and discuss their work with the London Bisexual Group on Monday 18 April.** ⟷

# Two of Us
# Review - Martin

Real life can be very dramatic, especially if you're coming out, having gay feelings returned for the first time and facing prejudice. Often all three happen together at the same time, as in the play **Two of Us**, which succeeds as a drama, just by being realistic.

Phil (played by Lee Whitlock), who has a steady girlfriend Sharon (Jenny Jay) comes to realise he is attracted to his friend Matthew (Jason Rush), who he knows to be gay.

You can feel the electricity between the two 17 year olds when they go swimming together. Sharon is watching, jealous, knowing that she cannot compete with Matthew. She can see that her cosy 'normal' relationship is under threat.



Matthew (left) and Phil (right) - In the swimming pool showers.

After the swim Phil stares at Matthew for some time; he responds by looking back, then running his hand gently against his friend's cheek and neck and down to his chest, then he puts a reassuring hand on his shoulder and says, "It's all right!"

Phil's confusion and depth of feeling remain unspoken, yet understood.

The Mary Whitehouse's of the world seem peculiarly obsessed with sex. They attack the 'perverted and unnatural sexual practices of homosexuals', yet it is this touch that probably disturbs them the most. This is what they hate and fear, love and affection between two people of the same sex!

Matthew is gay and represented as being strong both physically and mentally. This is reflected in the moments in which he is shown on the highest diving platform, poised and concentrating on the dive, which he goes on to execute gracefully and with full control.

Phil tries to be honest to Sharon about his feelings:- "I fancy him, I'm gay."

and, "Not gay then, bisexual, that's a fact!"

Word soon gets out, and the harassment at school begins. He opens his locker to find "QUEER BASTARD BUM BOY" written on it in red lipstick. A crowd watches him. But this only hardens Phil's resolve, and can only draw him closer to Matthew.

He meets Matthew and hugs him,
"Not here!" says Matthew.
"Footballers do it!" replies Phil.

Matthew walks home through the high-rise council estate where he lives, quietly pleased and walking in a confident manner. In a moment this turns into the panic of flight, as stones and then a bottle are thrown at him, from attackers he cannot see.

He gets home, badly shaken, with some blood trickling down from a cut on his head. Instead of finding a place of refuge, his Dad confronts him with some gay pornography, found under his bed.

He is only prepared to accept his son if he lies, and probes, "It's not true, is it?"

then, "I don't want to know, you could have lied,
said you were keeping them for a friend."

Many parents do not want to believe **their** child is gay, even if they know it to be true. It reflects the way homophobia is not just about oppressing a minority, but rather a highly internalised prejudice, that is **everything** to do with the sexuality of those who show it.

Phil takes the initiative, and tells Matthew that they're going camping together, on what they jokingly come to refer to as their "honeymoon".

They meet another runaway, Suzie (played by Zoie Nathenson) who is pleased to have the company of men who are not out to score with her.

"I can just be people with you lot!"
She says to Matthew, "We're two of a kind, mate,
outlaws".

Their moments of insecurity, for example jealousy that the other looks at someone else, are added to by the forces of law and order. A policeman drives up to their tent, and finds the two lovers asleep (but in separate sleeping bags) with their arms around eachother. He has difficulty restraining his disgust and anger and forces them to pack up and move on.

The play ends slightly ambiguously, with Phil apparently going back home with Sharon. However, we're not quite sure, as hints are made that he might return to the beach.

However you interpret the ending, **'Two of Us'** provides a most stunning exploration of the issues around growing up gay, or bisexual.

The music, by Nick Russell-Pavier and David Chilton, adds a lot to this highly polished production for schools television.

The characters are presented as individuals, with their own needs. Lee and Jason manage to convey the fun, energy and humour, of the two youths, as well as sensitively portraying the more complex emotions of both.

On a wider level, **Two of Us** is a positive affirmation of the importance of there being an alternative to compulsory heterosexuality. Unlike anything I've ever heard of coming out of a council with 'positive images', bisexuality was considered seriously. Sure, Phil was confused at first, not because bisexuality is naturally an unstable sexuality, but because of the extra pressures imposed on him. Suzie recognises this when she says,

"It's all labels. We're all mixed up.
We're all part of the con."

**I hope that the teachers who've previewed the programme will show it to their classes. I wish I'd had a chance to see such a moving and informative programme when I was at school. I didn't identify as gay, because to me, gays were camp men who liked other men. I was a boy attracted to other boys and to girls. I've no doubt the play would have made me feel positive about my sexuality, it would have helped me identify as bisexual, and if information had been presented with the programme, it could have helped me out of the loneliness I felt.**

# 'Two of Us' Review - Gez

As I'm seventeen, male, out as gay/bisexual in school, I was particularly interested in seeing the screenplay, **Two of Us.** The play courageously took on most of the issues concerning being young and gay/bisexual, and was obviously aiming to present these issues in the context of an educational film. However watching this play I felt totally alienated and that its content is very far from the reality of the problems faced by young gays and bisexuals.

Although I agree with presenting a positive image of gay/bisexual life, especially concerning youth, I don't think this play was representative of the lives young gays/bisexuals lead. Well, the play had little relevance to my life and to the lives of young gays and bisexuals I know. The gay character Matthew and the central character Phil who discovers his bisexuality, are both attractive, normal and masculine, leading relatively normal lives. I'm not suggesting that we're all ugly abnormal queens, but this play showed stereotypically attractive muscular males, such limiting and intimidating images, intrinsic to the gay 'scene', at the cost of valid representation.

The play failed to capture the real anguish of prolonged pain, repression, guilt, fear and persecution that many of us feel as a result of our society and conditioning. Problems in the family, school and public are touched upon, but these are very real and significant problems facing us, and deserve more than their tokenistic and patronising inclusion in this play.

The embarassment and intimidation of being out in school, the continuous physical and mental harassment inflicted by pupils **and** teachers, was only given brief lip service. The horrific reality of living in an unsympathetic family, which can have such consequences as total ostracism, refusal to provide food and money and mental and physical violence, was also barely touched upon.

I also feel that the portrayal of women is highly stereotyped and derogatory. Sharon, Phil's girlfriend is treated superficially with no attempt at understanding her position. I especially cringed at Sharon's best friend, the cruel stereotype of the pathetic, fat, ugly, unloved yet cheerful adolescent girl munching into a doughnut. This was insensitive and shows the whole play's lack of real understanding of young people's lives.

The character Suzie, however, is some relief from the boring and irritating stereotyping. This character is more credible and satisfying, doing more to represent young women as they really are.

Isolation and loneliness are major aspects of 'coming out', especially in school. For many of us our situation renders forming rewarding sexual relationships very difficult. Most of us are trapped at home and imprisoned at school, with little money and limited opportunities of meeting other young perverts, on top of the inhibiting feelings of guilt and insecurity that many of us experience. But of course, our heroes Phil and Matthew have eachother for support and affection. I and millions of other gay and bisexual youth have had no such luck!

**I would very happily welcome the overall idyllic dreamworld of Two of Us, but sadly for gay and bisexual youth harsh reality prevails, and this play did little to analyse our oppression and its causes.**

# AGONY AUNT PUTS THE BOOT IN!

Cosmopolitan's Irma Kurtz's bigoted reply to the following letter in fact can only make things worse, not only for the woman who has written in, but for many of the other women reading the magazine.

*"Three months ago my best friend and I, both in our early twenties, slept together. I thought she was heterosexual, as I am, and that for both of us it was a spontaneous, daring adventure, but later she told me she was bisexual and had slept with women before. Since then we've had sex sporadically. The initial impulse came from both of us equally and I don't feel guilty about what I've done."*

She goes on to say that she wants the sex to stop, but to remain friends, as she loves her friend dearly. The problem is that her friend cannot accept this decision.

Irma is immediately on the attack.

"You changed your friendship into a love affair and these are not even remotely the same."

She denies the fact that sex can be a part of a loving friendship.

"...Love affairs are exclusive and romantic."

She denies the variety of relationships possible, for example, loving friendships with more than one person at a time.

"Sex, as I think you now realise, is not just a little extra to put the finishing touch on a relationship, nor a giddy adventure."

Her ideas about sex would also prohibit the idea of having sex because it is fun.

Her advice, sentence by sentence, tries to define the limits of human behaviour, telling women how they should act, behave and think.

**As for BISEXUALITY!**

**"It seems to me that your friend's sexual orientation has always been homosexual (admittedly, I am of the unpopular opinion that bisexuality is almost always a pose, fashionable for a while, with a homosexual bias) and you have been playing with dynamite."**

The possibility that the writer is really bisexual, and does not admit it, may or may not be part of the problem, but should be raised. However Irma's ideal 'love affair' is certainly not between two women.

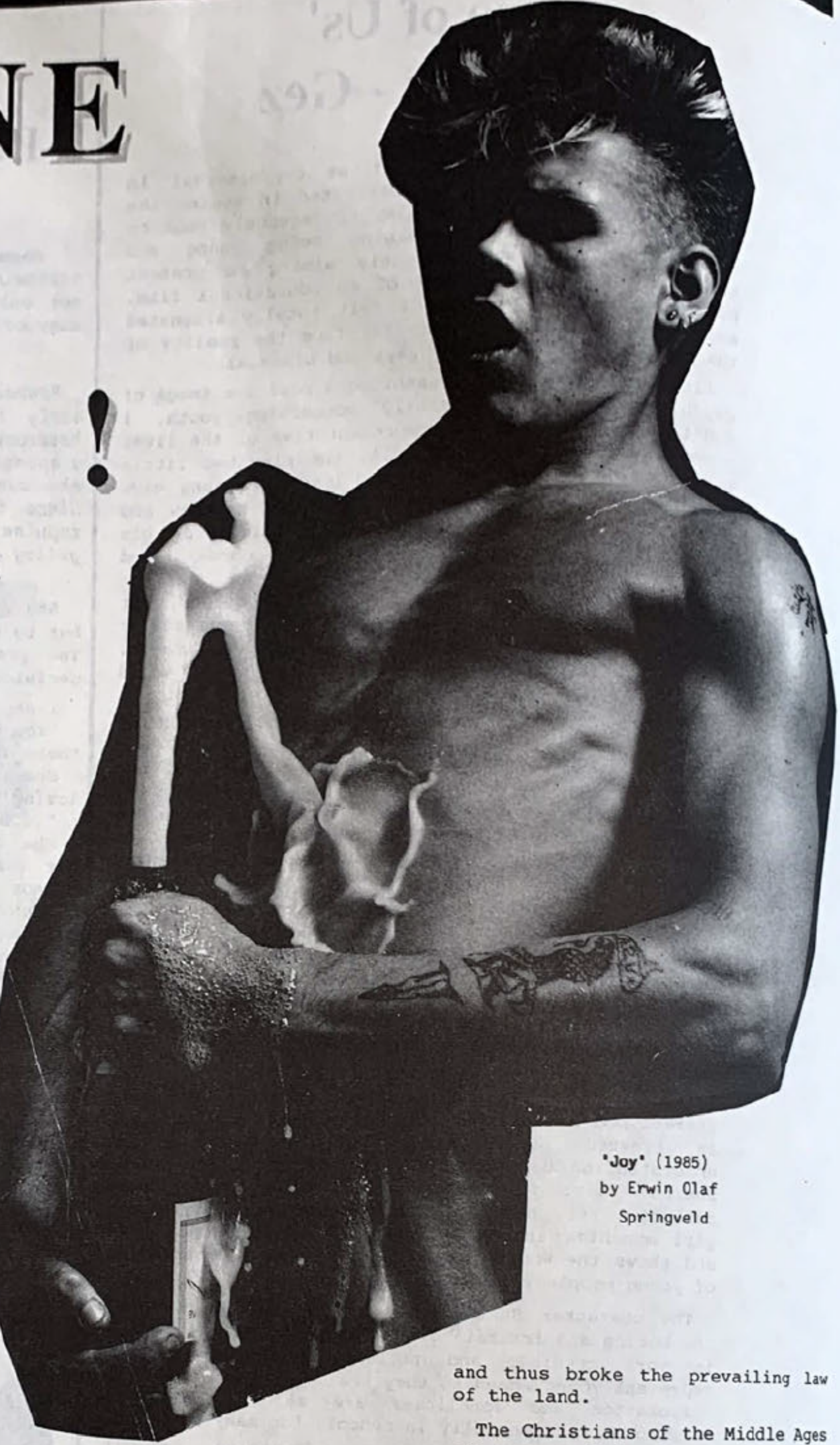
Her lover's bisexual self-awareness could well be a reason for problems that she may have, due to the homophobia at large in society, perpetuated by people like Irma, who as an 'Agony Aunt' should know better.

Maybe Irma Kurz should declare her interest in trying to screw up her readers. After all it keeps her in a job!

**MB**

# ONE IS FUN!

## Martin Burgess takes a look at what is still to some extent a taboo subject: **masturbation**



**'Joy'** (1985)
by Erwin Olaf
Springveld

OK, being lesbian, gay or bisexual isn't just about 'what you do in bed', but the subjects of sex and fantasy are left relatively undiscussed within lesbian and gay publications.

Masturbation alone is the commonest form of sex, yet people on the whole, are very uncomfortable talking about it. We've been conditioned to find it all so embarassing.

Masturbation often starts in infancy. I guess, in this country it still happens that parents prevent infants from masturbating themselves. Other cultures, past and present have different attitudes. In some the child-rearers play with, sometimes sucking a boy's penis, to help him get to sleep. What would a social worker do if such 'abuse'? were discovered in this country.

Anti 'child abuse' campaigners produce videos to show the difference between 'good' and 'bad' touches, but on the whole we get these messages, anyway, from early childhood. We are brought up in a way that makes us embarassed about nudity and all aspects of sex and sexuality. The words used as terms of abuse, by children and adults, include 'wanker', 'prick','cunt', and reflect the deeply lying negative social attitudes to the genitals and masturbation.

**The ethos behind the repression of masturbation was that sex is for procreation, and not for pleasure.**

The end result of sex **must** be a baby. If you had some pleasure in producing it, then **that** was God's gift.

Masturbation is also called onanism, which stems from the biblical story about Onan who was punished with death for his refusing to give his dead brother children by impregnating his brother's widow. He interupted intercourse with his sister-in-law by pulling out before ejaculation and thus broke the prevailing law of the land.

The Christians of the Middle Ages are responsible for much of the sexual repression that exists today. In order to frighten young people away from self-gratification, they altered the story and told them that Onan had been condemned to death by God for the sin of masturbation.

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**"Sex is for procreation and not for pleasure"**

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In previous centuries in Europe, small cages were invented which fanatical parents could tie around the genitals to prevent the 'vice' developing - and if that was not enough, some of the cages were inlaid with sharp points or with ingenious alarm devices. In certain cases young girls suspected of masturbation have had their clitoris removed by operation.

Not that long ago in this country masturbation was termed 'self abuse'. The medical and psychiatric professions helped maintain the frightening myths about what happened to those who did 'it'. The consequences, anything from total mental and physical collapse, to just going blind, maybe made a lot of people worry and feel guilty, but did not actually prevent the majority from doing it. (On the contrary, it may be that making something forbidden actually increases the excitement for many).

The Kinsey Reports in the 50's in America, shocked a nation, not only with the statistics on the proportion of people who are gay and bisexual, and the existence of sexuality in children and in women, but also with the fact that 92% of men wank regularly. The figure for women was lower, with 62% having masturbated at some time in their lives.

He noted that for college men the figure was 96%, which he judged to be a more honest figure since,

"...there are males in some other groups who would admit almost any other kind of sexual activity before they would give a record of masturbatory experience."

Kinsey's Reports, in fact, were part of a movement that overturned medical ideas about masturbation being harmful.

**"Now, it is okay for us to do it, but it is not okay to talk about it."**

So, attitudes to masturbation have changed. Now, it is okay for us to do it, but it is not okay to talk about it. Maybe the reason is that if people honestly talked about masturbation and their own fantasies all sorts of skeletons would be jumping out of the closets. People would discover from talking to others that their gay feelings, for example, were not unusual. They might also discover the huge variety that lies within sexuality, and also be encouraged to explore new areas that they had not considered before.

Some people still feel guilty about their wanking, probably because of the fantasies that they have; for example, ones of a transexual nature, in which a man fantasises about being a woman, ones of a sadistic or masochistic nature, or voyeuristic fantasies. There are those who cannot talk to anyone about their fantasies, who can end up being screwed up. Rape is not just about power, it marks the extreme tip of a sexual confusion at large in society.

One of the things I have discovered talking to people about their sexuality is the huge variety physically and emotionally. The idea of two labels: homosexual and heterosexual, describing sexuality is laughable. The variety should not be surprising. Sexuality is an important part of people's personalities, and we're all individuals.

One problem in the realm of sexual politics is the way that aggressive sexuality has been encouraged in men, and discouraged in women. A huge sex industry has been set up by capitalism to fill the gap, maintain these attitudes and make masturbation big business.

Another political aspect linked to wanking is that barbaric practice of circumcision. For the sake of religion or medical fads, millions of males have had their foreskins cut, which has the effect of reducing the pleasureable sensations. In some cultures the practice has been extended to girls, in a disgusting attack on their bodies.

Sex education - Dutch Style
From 'Vies is Lekker' (Naughty is nice)

## 'A Habit that sticks'

My sex education was inadequate. I didn't 'discover' masturbation, until my sexuality hit a sudden peak at fourteen. I had a few wet dreams before I wanked myself to orgasm. Many boys learn from other boys, or men. Even a book with clear diagrams or photographs would have helped me obtain pleasure at a younger age, and to understand more fully the changes in my body.

For years wanking was my only form of sexual activity, and for long periods of time, it continues to be so.

**So, can it still be fun wanking after all these years?**

The answer is, it varies. I often wank before going to sleep as part of a pre-sleep ritual. At times the wanking is quite mechanical, providing little except for a slight relaxation. I have found the relaxing effect useful at times of stress.

I know for myself and other men that wanking seems an essential part of life. It acts like an relief valve, to the build up of sexual tension. But it provides more than just that.

## Is masturbation a substitute for sex?

Masturbation is sex. One of the primary advantages of masturbation is that it avoids all the complications that seem to arise in sexual relationships. It also allows total control (eg to slow down near orgasm, to prolong the plateau of pleasure). Another advantage is on the fantasy level, there can be a large degree of imagination involved, producing feelings that cannot be achieved with another person. There are those who can achieve a high degree of stimulation from auto-eroticism, taking sexual pleasure from themselves. There is probably a degree of auto-eroticism in everybody, though society certainly does not encourage it (maybe because of its homosexual nature).

One of the disadvantages of a sex life that depends mainly on self-masturbation is that we develop our own habits, and ways of doing things. So the idea that males make good lovers for males, because we know 'how males tick', isn't necessarily true. Taken to the extreme there are people who can achieve sexual pleasure very easily alone, but cannot with other people.

There can also be a positive relationship between sex with others and masturbation alone. Good sexual experiences can fire the imagination to produce new fanatasies. Some people play roles in sex developed in their masturbation fantasies.

One of the main differences between solo masturbation and sex with another person, is that masturbation usually concentrates specifically on the sexual side, whereas sex with others can pleasantly blur the boundaries between affection, intimacy, warmth, sensuality and sex.

# Talking about Wanking!

Wanking was always an intensely personal thing to me. Tied in with all the other taboos was the fact some of the fantasies I had were gay ones. I wanted no-one ever to find out about these.

'Coming out' meant breaking through the taboos society had instilled in me. My friendships with other gays have been enriched by a degree of openess about sexuality.

We often build up pictures in our minds of our friends or family as being non-sexual. This is because sex has been made such a private thing. It can be fun to 'open up' and talk about sexual feelings, sexual experiences, including masturbation.

Masturbation can produce a whole series of pleasant physical and emotional effects. Some think that it has deep spiritual significance.

It can be very pleasureable if time is given to allow sustained pleasure. It can be quite rewarding to try different techniques, to add to the ways of achieving pleasure.

**Enjoy** having safer sex with others, and enjoy your wanking, and don't be scared to talk about it! ↔

| | FEMALES | MALES |
|---|---|---|
| Learning to Masturbate | | |
| By Homosexual Contact | 3% | 9% |
| Relation to Age | | |
| Accumulative incidence | | |
| Total:experience | 62% | 93% |
| Total:with orgasm | 58% | 92% |
| By age 12 | 12% | 21% |
| By age 15 | 20% | 82% |
| By age 20 | 33% | 92% |
| Active incidence to orgasm | Increases to middle age | Decreases after teens |
| Frequency to orgasm | | |
| Average (per week) | | |
| Unmarried Groups | 0.3-0.4 | 0.4-1.8 |
| Married Groups | 0.2 | 0.1-0.2 |
| Individual variation | Very Great | Less |
| Techniques of Masturbation | | |
| Genital Manipulation | 84% | 95% |
| Thigh Pressures | 10% | Rare |
| Muscular Tensions | 5% | Rare |
| Vaginal Insertions, ever | 20% | |
| Fantasy Alone | 2% | Extr.Rare |
| Fantasy Accompanying Masturbation | | |
| Almost always fantasy | 50% | 72% |
| Sometimes fantsy | 14% | 17% |

# Kinsey and Sex!

In the table, on the left, is a summary of just a few of Dr Alfred C. Kinsey's findings on masturbation (from interviews with 5300 males and 5940 females). For a good explanation of these, plus a lot more interesting information it is worth going to a reference library to read:- **"Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male"** and **"Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female"**, published in 1948, in America. Although dated, much of it is depressingly relevant today.

Other results showed that the average male can reach orgasm only a few seconds quicker than the average female, for whom the average minimum time needed was 4 mins.

Kinsey noted the importance of masturbation for women,

"Amongst all types of sexual activity, masturbation is the one in which the female most frequently reaches orgasm. Even in her marital coitus the average female fails to achieve orgasm in a fair proportion of her contacts, and this is true of most of the petting she does prior to marriage; but in 95% or more of all her masturbation she does reach orgasm."

# AN OPEN LETTER - TO ALL THOSE WHO STILL CAN NOT BELIEVE THAT WOMEN MASTURBATE.

*Most of us masturbate at some time during our lives. Masturbation can be the ultimate form of self-nurturing - an antidote to a society that puts women second.*

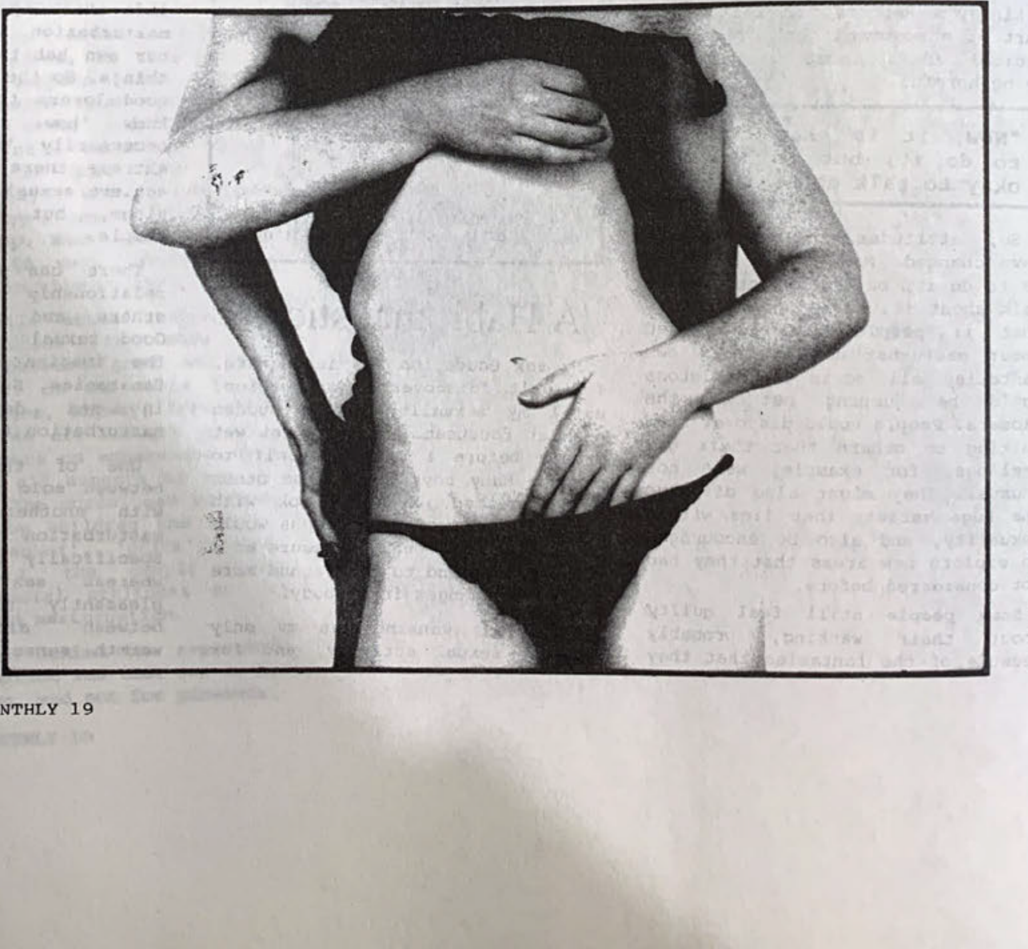
*Our experience of masturbation is rich and varied. We are not all frustrated spinsters who relieve their desire for a man with a vibrator. We relish masturbation - and not only as a substitute for sex. Some of us have only managed to reach orgasm by masturbation.*

*Some women masturbate more during menstruation. It is after all, possibly the most effective cure for period pains. It is also a time when male lovers find our secretions distasteful. Masturbation during the last few weeks of pregnancy is also common - some partners may fear harming the baby or even find a pregnant woman's bulge off-putting.*

*We have learned so much about ourselves from masturbation. Unlike men we do not have immediately obvious genitals. We must discover and rejoice in our bodies. Some of us have not done this yet and may find it hard to let another person enjoy us.*

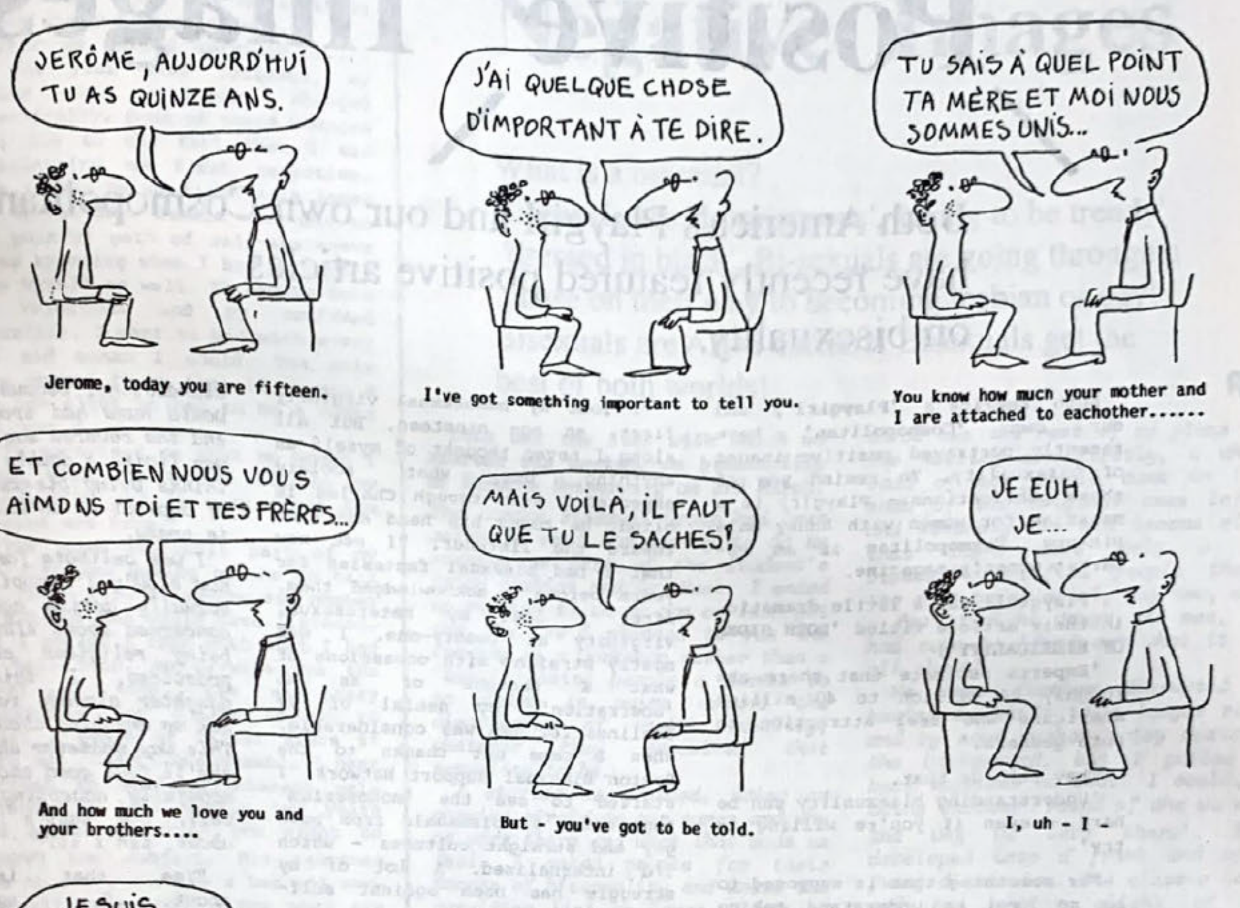
*We will no longer feel guilty about masturbation.*

*Luera*



Photograph by **Kris Zimmerman** (From 'Excursions into Lesbian Erotica', by Rose Collis, 'Gay Times', January 1988).

# How the French See It


JERÔME, AUJOURD'HUI TU AS QUINZE ANS.
J'AI QUELQUE CHOSE D'IMPORTANT À TE DIRE.
TU SAIS À QUEL POINT TA MÈRE ET MOI NOUS SOMMES UNIS...
ET COMBIEN NOUS VOUS AIMONS TOI ET TES FRÈRES...
MAIS VOILÀ, IL FAUT QUE TU LE SACHES!
JE EUH JE...
JE SUIS HOMOSEXUEL!
DIS QUELQUE CHOSE...
JE T'ENCULE!
COPI

**Jerome, today you are fifteen.**

**I've got something important to tell you.**

**You know how mucn your mother and I are attached to eachother......**

**And how much we love you and your brothers....**

**But - you've got to be told.**

**I, uh - I -**

**I'm homosexual!**

**Say something....**

**I'll fuck you!**

Reprinted from GAI PIED HEBDOMADAIRE

# Positive Images

## Both America's Playgirl and our own Cosmopolitan have recently featured positive articles on bisexuality.

Both America's **'Playgirl'**, and our own **'Cosmopolitan'** have recently portrayed positive images of bisexuality. To remind you of these publications:- Playgirl is a magazine for women with hunky male pin-ups, Cosmopolitan is an up-market women's magazine.

'Playgirl' was a little dramatic, in their article titled **'BOTH SIDES OF BISEXUALITY'**,

'Experts estimate that there are roughly 24 million to 40 million Americans who feel attraction to both genders.'

They tell us that,

'Understanding bisexuality can be hard - even if you're willing to try'.

For something that is supposed to be so hard to understand taking eleven minutes from eleven hours of interviews (at the Fourth Annual East Coast Conference on Bisexuality in New York City) is probably not the best way to engender enlightenment.

Still at least the interviews showed the diverse range of people, men and women of widely different occupations and ages, who identify as bisexual.

There were a large number of interesting statements made, but the brevity of the portions of interviews selected meant that some of these came across as bisexual sloganeering.

**"Bisexuality isn't just about sex - it's about the freedom to be who you are. I think being open about who I am contributes to larger cultural liberations."**

Coming to terms with their sexuality (often with references to losing homsexual and heterosexual virginity) and facing the reactions of others (gay and straight), were all skimmed through.

One of the interviews was with Charles, graduate student in philosophy, age 29.

"I lost my homosexual virginity first, at age nineteen. But all along I never thought of myself as anything but what society expected." Even though Charles is blind, he turns his head and eyes toward the listener. "I see now that I had bisexual fantasies for years before I acknowledged them. After I lost my heterosexual virginity at twenty-one. I was mostly straight with occassions of what I thought of as an 'aberration'. My denial of my feelings for men was considerable. When I came out thanks to the Boston Bisexual Support Network, I started to see the 'monosexism' that comes at bisexuals from both gay **and** straight cultures - which I'd internalised. A lot of my struggle has been against self-oppression.

My sister-in-law doesn't understand that bisexuality is a sexual **orientation**, not necessarily a sexual practice. I said 'Hey, you find other men beside my brother attractive, but you don't have to do anything about it, do you?' A happy bisexual in a monogamous relationship is still a bisexual."

> **'Anyone who thinks being bisexual is some kind of cop-out or an easy way of living is crazy.'**

The last interview is with Jane Doe, single working mother, age 32.

*"At age ten I fell in love with a sister of a friend. I was scared because even at this age I knew this was **not** okay. Desires for women trailed me through high school and college. I lost my heterosexual virginity at thirteen, and my homosexual virginity when I was twenty-two and out on my own. I tried to be a lesbian, then for six or seven years, I wanted to start having relationships with men again, but I had to keep them clandestine, because the gay world would have had trouble with them. And the reverse was true, too, so I was living a double lie. Anyone who thinks being bisexual is some kind of cop-out or an easy way of living is crazy.*

*I was celibate for some time, but now slowly I'm moving toward being sexually active again. I'm quite concerned about AIDS and I plan on being religious about safe sex practices. I think my little daughter already realises she can ask me anything about love and sex. This way **whatever** she ends up being she'll feel good about herself, and hopefully accepting of others as well. Boy that's what it's all about, isn't it?"*

"Yes, that **is** what it's about.....", agrees Laura Fissenger. She finishes the article by saying,

"When bisexuals accept themselves, and others accept them too, it will be a more accepting world in general. **All people** want to live in a world like that."

Cosmopolitan provided less variety, but more depth, in their feature titled **"BEWITCHED, BOTHERED AND BISEXUAL"**.

To tempt the reader the question is put, as a sub-title,

**"What is it like, after years of heterosexuality, to be faced with a new and bizarre alternative? To find that you are attracted to both men and women?"**

Douglas Paul tells his story in an intelligent and sensitive way.

"Lying awake after my lover had gone, a million thoughts flooded my brain. What had made me do it? What would happen now? Who could I tell? Did this make me homosexual or bisexual? These questions returned throughout the long night that followed and the days to come."

"What happened that night had been preceeded by the decline of the very best relationship I had known. She was bright warm, funny and sexy. One day, however driving to collect her, I knew I no longer felt the same. This was three months before I even met the first man I slept with. Why my attitude to her changed I don't know.

After my failed marriage....... in the year that followed, my values and attitudes changed dramatically. Some of these changes were due to the fact that I was experiencing my first rejection, that it was by my first male lover was irrelevant. Others were due to the painful path of self-awareness I was treading when I had thought I knew myself so well. To escape both my rejection and my confused sexuality, I went to bed with every man and woman I could. The only rule seemed to be that if it was a man one night it had to be a woman the next."

"It surprised me that no woman I slept with was turned off by my bisexuality and in many cases the reverse was true."

"The most difficult part of my new life was having no-one to talk to. There were of course any number of friends who would have listened, but I couldn't cope with what I had to tell them. My ex-wife was the first to know, she was very supportive but honest enough to admit a sense of relief since it left her 'number one woman'. I next decided to tell my closest male friend. It took nearly two years and a lot of drink one night to broach the subject. His response was to grin, give me a hug and say, 'We all know that - now what are you drinking?'"

.."What **has** changed is the hardness which was growing in me has softened. Maybe that would have happened with time anyway - as a man you don't have to sleep with men to become more caring! I appreciate more now the qualities that we absurdly categorise as feminine - warmth, gentleness, sensitivity and kindness. For me they are strengths and not weaknesses. I have also learned to express my feelings.

I have now lived with a man for two years and I love him. He too, was once married. Our first year together was hell, since neither of us had lived with anyone for some time. The second year has been immeasureably better."

"I like the feeling of freedom I have with him but I do miss many of the things I enjoyed with women. It is also a lot easier socially to be with a woman unless you want to live exclusively in a homosexual world, which neither of us do. However, ultimately sharing your life with someone is about love and when you love someone, surely it is not what sex they are but **who** they are that counts." ⟷

## Working to dispose of:

# Negative Images

What is a bisexual?

Bisexuals are 'promiscuous', 'trying to be trendy' 'dressed in black', Bi-sexuals are going through a phase on their way to becoming lesbian or gay! Bisexuals are AIDS carriers! Bisexuals get the best of both worlds!

**AL**

***This was the list with which we started the meeting on bisexuality at Warwick University on 3rd March.***

*The London Bisexual Group had been asked to send someone up to do an evening as part of the Student's Union Lesbian and Gay Week. I ended up running it on my own as Iain got the flu. We'd planned to run the evening as a workshop rather than a 'talk', giving people a chance to to share in pairs around the discovering of their sexuality, whatever they perceived that sexuality to be.*

*I started as planned, doing an opening circle on our names and why we were there and what that made us feel. I asked people for their images of bisexuality and wrote the resulting list on large sheets of paper to keep them in mind through the rest of the meeting. I talked for ten minutes, to start the ball rolling, about my own experience of discovering my sexuality, and then gave them ten minutes in pairs to do the same. All that worked well enough, but from then on I had to throw out the rest of my plans for the meeting as: firstly, a whole load of new people came in (and some of the original ones left); and secondly, it had become clear that there were only a few bisexual-identified people there, the rest being mainly gay men, with a few straight womyn and men, who had come to 'find out what it was all about'.*

*We were further disrupted by having to shift to a larger room, and by some rather noisy music in the background, but I pulled it back together as best I could, by doing another 'round of who we were and why we were there'. This developed into a frank and often funny discussion. The classic homo- and bi- phobic cliche of the evening came from a straight woman who asked,*

***"Don't lesbians miss it?"*** *(penetration). I managed to control my anger and replied* ***"Don't straight womyn miss licking cunt?"****, which effectively shut her up, in a barrage of laughter.*

*To finish up, after checking up with the two other bisexual womyn there, I gave everyone who wanted it 'the question you've always wanted to ask a bisexual'. The questions were fairly predictable:*

*"Is sex different with womyn and men?"*

*"Do you prefer one to the other?"*

*"Are bisexuals necessarily non-monogamous?"*

*The message that came across was that bisexuals are attracted to people as people, regardless of gender, but beyond that we don't have very much in common! It was only a shame that no bisexual men were there, as this would have made identification easier for the large proportion of gay men in the room.*

***So, I managed to facilitate an open and enjoyable evening in spite of my nervousness. Hopefully a few myths were shattered and a few cliches disposed of along the way.***

## Will the man belong_?

Will the man be kind
the warm, pink tongue in his mouth?
Will he really mind
her taste of juice in his mouth?
Will his love be blind,
and flow like words from his mouth?
Or will he only find
the fear she speaks with her mouth?

Will the man do wrong,
The short, pale nails on his fingers,
or will his love be strong,
and smell her smell on his fingers?
Will the man stay long,
her flowing blood on his fingers?
Will the man belong,
and show his love with his fingers?

## Love in the Woods

- Almost Frantic -
I tread the brambles
Needing
- Quick -
A place to give birth
to my other side
The other woman
Now -
on the ground
among the brambles
out of sight
Rest my
Hungry finger
into
my soft
moss places
- Try not to hear the bloody aeroplanes -
Let me go.

© kate kanary 1988

## Bi is Best!

Before I accepted myself I was alone.
No-one to talk to and all on my own
Since I came out to my friend
I no longer think I'm 'round the bend.
I used to hide my Bi-Monthly away
In case my love found it and thought I was gay.
Now it's Out in the open and I feel much better
He reads your mag to see if I've sent in a letter.
When I was in the closet I was too scared
to tell anyone, or to go on the scene
Since I've come out I've been to Sapphos,
discos, clubs and pubs - let's think, where else have I been?
Before I came out I couldn't accept bi's or gays.
In fact I used to be very heterosexist.
Since I've come out I no longer go along with the rest
And in fact I have to agree Bi is Best

Vi - Manchester
Womens
Bisexual
Group

## A LETTER TO OUR WOMEN READERS

*For over a year we have been trying to produce an issue of Bi-Monthly completely written and produced by women. Unfortunately the response hasn't been too good, but in the next issues we will be including poetry, articles and illustrations by bisexual women.*

*We feel it is important that women continue to contribute as much material as possible, if Bi-Monthly is to accurately reflect its mixed readership.*

*Please send us anything printable:- you don't need to be the next Virginia Woolf or Judy Chicago.*

Luera Costas

# Do I Love You ?

Do I love you ?
Animal in my pain.
Swimming through my tears
like tropical rain?
Heavy, hot and wet
– or arid and dry –
You're in my heart
and I do.

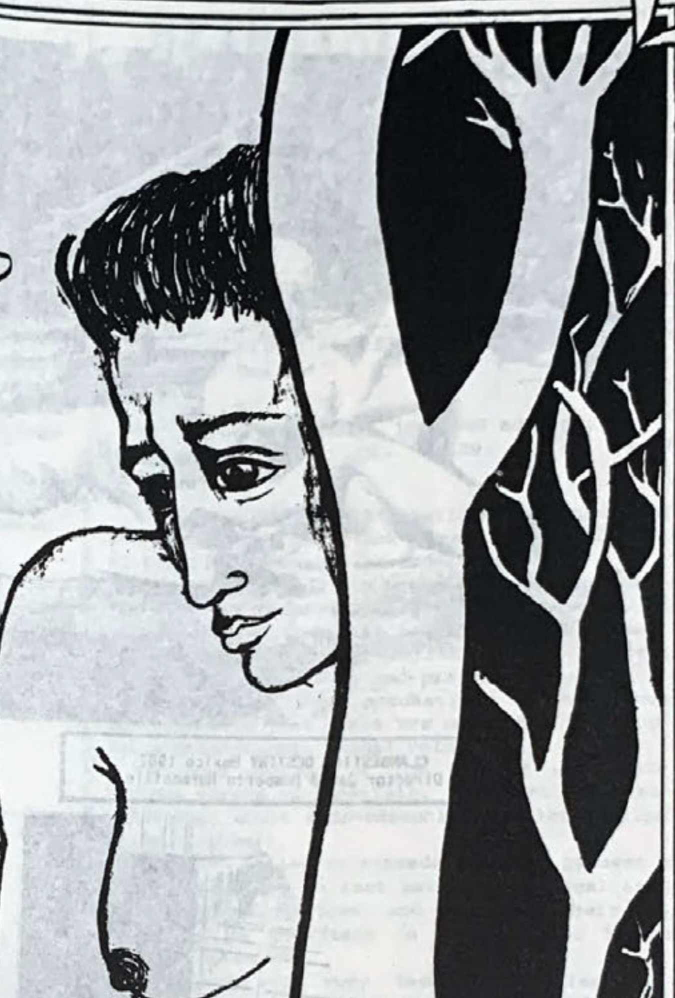
Through the succulence
– your leafy sweaty dark –
the most moist carress
cannot put out the spark
to make volcanos glow
in my underbelly.
You're in my heart
and I do.

Panther, in your sight –
but I don't kill my prey.
You – a mountain height
I stalk around mid-day.
Be my jungle country –
grow and surround me.
You're in my heart
and I do.

So –
Do I love you?
Do you still have to ask?
– swollen needs of a lifetime –
still no heavy task.
All I have to do
Is to live deeply with you.
You're in my heart
and I do.

* * *

Song © Kate Kanary
1988



# DAVID BURKLE TAKES A LOOK AT THE LATEST FILMS

**CLANDESTINE DESTINY** Mexico 1987
Director Jamie Humberto Hermosillo

**I've heard the mermaids singing**
Canada 1987 Original Screenplay, Direction: Patricia Rozema

***The London Film Festival (Nov '87) again brought to our attention a number of new films of special interest from the bisexual point of view.***

*The most delightful, from my cinema seat was '**I heard the mermaids singing**'; a charming film overflowing with naive wonder at the discovery of life in general and of one woman's captivation with another, in particualar.*

*This is Canadian Patricia Rozeman's first feature film, in which she wanted to celebrate her belief that **"we do not see things as they are, but as we are"**.*

*Shelia McCarthy puts a foot wrong most engagingly as Polly, an inept and scatter-brained dreamer, who takes a job as assistant to the woman curator of a Toronto art gallery. Polly is impressed with Gabrielle's clever way with words - "New York is wild for his oblique pragmatism" and becomes increasingly infatuated. She is fascinated to discover that Gabrielle is a lesbian and even more amazed to find herself 'kinda' in love with her. Eventually her unquestioning belief in Gabrielle's superiority leads Polly to inevitable disillusion, and down from her flights of fancy with a bump. **Take note though,** Rozena likes cinema audiences who stay for the credits, and here gives them a special reason for doing so.*

*Very much an unknown quantity, was Jamie Humberto Hermosillo's **'Clandestine Destiny'**, just finished in time for the Festival. He has used the same uncluttered style that we saw in his previous film 'Donna Herlinda and Son' (so well received last year). But this time the film is a black comedy set in the future.*

***"Although it's a fantasy"**, he said, **"some parts of Mexico are like that now: the middle classes are part of the 'First' World and the rest are in the 'Third' World"**.*

*Hemosillo describes the plot as follows: "A few months before the year 2000, in a country (Mexico) split by a civil war, two girls (Lila and Isabel) and a young homosexual (Angel) set out to help a mutual friend (Eduardo) who is beset by all sorts of problems and has tried to take his own life. They manage to* *bring him out of his depression but Eduardo convinces them that life is really not worth living.*

*One of their attempts to change Eduardo's mind revolves around an idea that they should all have sex with each other (seperately). The women waste no time getting into this, but the 'straight' Eduardo has a few fears to overcome, before he realises the benefits of getting closer to the gay 'Angel'.*

*Their plan for suicide is overtaken by events and they end up taking much more positive action against the corruption around them."*

*Hemosillo told Bi-Monthly after the showing that he is gay himself, but believes we should reject divisive labels.*

***"We are diverted by assumed differences in our sexual preferences, interests, the way wew look at life, etc: differences which, once overcome, maybe will allow us to come out of the growing isolation in which the difficult conditions of our times have thrown us."***

*"We must be optimistic", he said, "this is a film about liberation.* ***Sexual repression and political repression go hand in hand. After we solve our sexual problems we can solve our other problems".***

***Hermosillo planned for nearly ten years to make this film - hopefully it will soon find a distributor here because the pertinence of its message becomes more relevant for us in Britain day by day.***

# Withnail and I

Paul McGann ('I') with Richard E. Grant (Withnail) in **Withnail and I**, a highly original comic treat currently on release. The semi-autobiographical screen play is by Bruce Robinson, whose first was **The Killing Fields** in 1984. It launches us relentlessly into the hilarious and sometimes manic adventures of two degenerate but loveable, struggling actors at the end of the 60's. If you think gay people should never be laughed at, you may have trouble with Richard Griffith's rôle as Uncle Monty, a menacing and mammoth homosexual. But then if he hadn't been so grotesque 'I' might have responded to his advances, and that might have been quite a different story.

# BETRAYAL OF YOUTH

DAMIEN MARTENS GIVES HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON 'THE BETRAYAL OF YOUTH', SUBTITLED, 'RADICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CHILDHOOD SEXUALITY, INTERGENERATIONAL SEX AND THE SOCIAL OPPRESSION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.'

**The Betrayal Of Youth**, Improved edition, CL Publications 1988, UK. £7.99 Edited by Warren Middleton.

My enjoyment of the 5th National Bisexual Conference was soured by the attack I received in the 'Politics of Consent' workshop (an understatement).

This was perhaps the wrong workshop to come out as the sole gay pedofile, or boy lover; however I felt as pedofiles have long been looking at this issue, that I could make a positive contribution. I underestimated the level of ignorance and prejudice.

I was met by broad accusations of child abuse, and the statement that there are no such thing as positive inter-generational sexual relations.

The most extreme of the attacks were made by a vicious strain of feminists. (The sort who also define consenting adult sado-masochistic relationships as an abuse of power).

They even failed to concede that the present age-of-consent laws are in fact part of the legal and social oppression of children, and confirmed their belief of the right of the State to lay down the law in this area of sexuality.

To answer some very broad generalisations about power, I tried to cite two examples of adult-child relationships outside the family, the reality of which exposes the fallacies of such generalisations.

I was not allowed to complete the stories. The only personal account permitted was from a woman who had been abused by her husband.

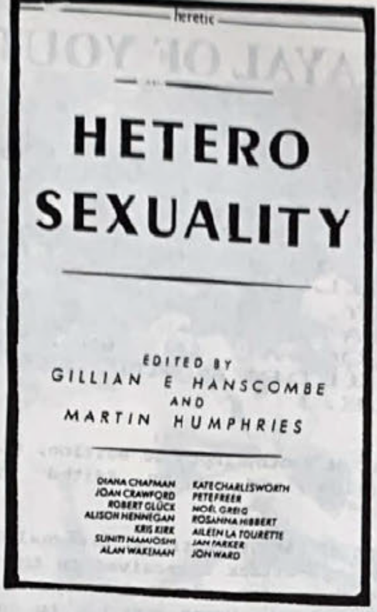
Not one person looked seriously at their own conscious, or sub-conscious use of power.

Eric Presland's chapter in the **'The Betrayal Of Youth'** is titled 'Power and Consent'. It starts by flowing fluently through a series of memories, including those of his own sexuality as a child, and experiences when older. These memories set a basis of reality from which an understanding of the wider contexts of sexuality and the oppression of children are derived. It is this basis in reality which makes politics most meaningful. Much of the rest of the book contained material that was factual and informative, on a wide range of topics, without really setting me alight. I found the book heavy reading in places, the dot-matrix printing of the text, does not help.

A real bonus, however, was Appendix 1, 'PIE: from 1980 until its demise in 1985'. It was written by the last chairperson of the Pedophile Information Exchange, Steve Smith, who now lives in Holland.

PIE's internal politics, its relations with the gay world, the attacks made on it by the media and the police and courts, all make interesting reading.

**Overall it is an interesting and intelligent book, from which those with open minds could learn. I hope that the heavy persecution faced by many pedofiles becomes recognised, and that the standards of debate within 'bisexual politics' is raised.**



## A personal response by Margaret Benson

I feel very wary about making generalisations about this book. This is simply beacause the contributions are so diverse.

Some of them I enjoyed very much, especially the more humorous pieces, such as Kris Kirk's 'Hetiquette', and Joan Crawford's 'Whose problem is it anyway'. Both do what good satire should do, make us laugh, while clarifying the ludicrousness of a heterosexually dominated society that refuses to recognise the validity of any way of living that does not conform to the 'norm'.

I did not care so much for the contributions that dealt with the subject in a more analytical essay form, but that may well be a matter more of my own tastes rather than the quality of those pieces.

What I dislike about this book is its treatment of bisexuality. Bad enough that the issues are completely ignored - none of the contributors chose to recognise bisexuality as a valid identity - but

**I was horrified to find that the few references there were to those who have sexual and emotional relationships with people of both sexes, were entirely negative.**

I found myself presented with the stereotypical images of the closet gay who is married and won't come out as his true self, and the straight who likes to dabble in sexual adventures with people of their own sex, without really treating these as valid relationships.

This tone to the book is best expressed by Martin Humphries in the introduction:-

'What is the essence of a gay man having a sexual/emotional relationship with a heterosexual man? Is it possible? Heterosexuals would say that that man was not one of them. Many gay men would say that he wan't gay. He would probably be defined as bisexual!'

Why the exclamation mark? I don't think Mr. Humphries would be too pleased to see his identity trashed by someone in this way, so what gives him the right to do it to those of us who define ourselves as bisexual?

Of course the way bisexuality is treated, or to be more accurate, ignored, is not really much of a surprise, but it does make me very angry. The gay movement is working for positive images of lesbians and gays, which I support whole-heartedly. I just get fed up with waiting to see my bisexual identity positively portrayed. I would expect to be insulted by straights, but not by those with whom I a common cause. ↔

# Letters

## 'Pedophile Propaganda'

*Dear Editors,*

*I'm breathing a sigh of relief - you've finally toned down on our pedophilia propoganda! I wish that you would cut it out altogether. I'd love to give you my opinion on the subject. But unfortunately this mag is for bisexuals. It has only 20 pages. Therefore there is not enough space to divert to other subjects. Bisexuality is controversial enough without confusing issues. We know that bisexuals are versatile. We can be found in all sorts of jobs and professions. Some of us are sporty, social, loving, even violent and most of us are as intolerant as the opposition.*

*Suppose one of the editors condoned violence. If s/he wanted to write about it in each edition and make out that it is natural for bisexuals to be violent - would you let her/him? I'm sure that everyone should be allowed to voice their opinion once in a while (say every ten issues), but that's really enough. Bi-monthly is a young mag and we should all be allowed to express our opinions, but pedophilia is not a main concern to most bisexuals. This should be reflected in our mag. I've never actually known any bisexuals with a strong leaning towards kids.*

*Yours truly,*

*Sigrid*

*PS How come you never publish any anti-pedophile letters? Are others too lethargic or do you simply suppress them?*

***Ed- We do not suppress any letters. There was one anti-ped letter published in issue 17, and one person cancelled their subscription.***

## 'Biased and Antagonistic'

Dear Martin,

I didn't like your article on 'Lesbian and Gay Politics'. I particularly dislike the way it was presented as a factual article rather than as a signed article expressing your personal opinion. This could give the impression to lesbians and gay men who read it that all bisexuals are antagonistic and not worth the bother of dealing with.

Like you I want to see bisexuals, lesbians and gay men campaigning together against the the heterosexist laws and attitudes we live amongst. Like you I would like to see a bisexual symposium attached to OLGA, to ensure that we weren't left out of any legislaion and publicity. In that context your article was irresponsible, since it condemned the system OLGA had drawn up to protect minorities within the movement without giving it a chance. It also failed to mention the problems caused by Trotskyist groups disrupting the Legislation for Lesbian and Gay Rights Conference, that was a precursor to OLGA. Instead it gave the impression that lesbians and gay men were to blame.

Since that issue of Bi-Monthly, there has been OLGA's first AGM which produced useful results, and didn't suffer from groups vetoing proposals unnecessarily. I still hope we can get a bisexual symposium, and I don't think there will be a problem if we don't pointlessly antagonise the existing OLGA members.

The Bi-Monthly is our only magazine. As such it should represent us all, and controversial articles should be presented as opinion rather than editorial positions.

cheers,
Dave Berry

*Dave, the LLGRC Conference was not sabotaged by Trotskyist groups. They were **scapegoated,** in particular by Jenni Wilson, as the organisers had not been strong enough (or organised enough) to repel the last minute disruption caused by lesbians and gays demanding the 'Right of Veto' in the Charter Drafting Meeting. I was present at this meeting, and was involved as a volunteer in the Legislation Campaign from the early days.*

# *An Open Letter -*

## *addressing the needs of young people*

Having been involved with the London Bisexual Group for some months now, I feel I have learnt much about myself and my friendships with others. It has been an interesting time but also very confusing. Such confusion however has been good, since it has led to deeper thoughts about some significant aspects of my life.

I have noticed the need for an information base/informal lending library, where magazines, articles and books are ready to hand, especially books about bisexuality.

I have been reading John Hart's book **'So you think you're attracted to the same sex?'** (Penguin 1984) I would like to see this being made more available to current members, since it seems to offer the most comprehensive guide yet, to 'what being bisexual is' (although there is an emphasis on people who are married then discover their bisexuality rather than on younger people who are discovering their own bisexuality, which is rather different). However, John Hart's simple explanations and case histories should prove reassuring and informative for the younger reader.

He also considers the notion that 'many people are not only heterosexual or homosexual, but bisexual, and that sexual dispositions may vary throughout life.'

It is important to realise that there are many members of the London Group who are slowly gaining confidence about their own orientations. Many younger people do not emerge from the experience, which can be a frightening one, and do not have the security of a long term relationship. I therefore urge past and present members to consider the need to identify the existence of the younger members who are essentially the co-trustees of the future. A simple policy and appropriate support and referring has never been so important.

I would welcome the ideas and observations from readers, plus the names of any suitable books for a future library.

Secretary
London Bisexual Group

We **WELCOME** your comments on all aspects of bisexuality, and other topics. Please keep your letters short and address them to:-

**BI-MONTHLY, BM BI,**
**LONDON WC1N 3XX.**

If you have any news, views, information, let the world know through Bi-Monthly! We would also love to receive, cartoons, graphics, photographs. So start collecting **today,** and **make Bi-Monthly your magazine!**

# Bisexual Groups

**BRITAIN**

MANCHESTER: meet at Resource Centre, 61 Bloom St. 1st Thursday montly 8.30 - 10.00 Contact Paul Owen on 061-236 5986 (4-10pm) or 061-228 3554 (2-4pm).

MANCHESTER WOMEN'S BISEXUAL GROUP - meet 2nd Thursday of the month, at Manchester Gay Centre, 61a Bloom St, Manchester. For further info: Vi, c/o WBG, P.O.Box 153, Manchester M60 1LP.

EDINBURGH Bisexual Group meets Thursdays, 8 pm, at Lesbian and Gay Community Centre, 58a Broughton St. For details contact Bisexual Phoneline.

LONDON BISEXUAL WOMEN'S GROUP, BM LBWG, London WC1N 3XX

The older lesbian and bisexual women's group is a non-scene group that meets for meals, etc. in London SW1. Telephone: 01-979 0695 (6-8 pm).

LONDON Bisexual Group meets Mondays at the Fallen Angel, 8.30pm. 65 Graham Street, London N1. Details : David 01-340-5729.

TYNESIDE: Bisexual contact: Simon Henderson, 31 Harrison Place, Sndyford, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE2 1DE.

Contacts for Bisexuals in Nalgo: tel. Zadie 01-806-9264 or Dorothy 01-853-4402 (evenings) or write to Box BM BI, London WC1N 3XX.

University of Anglia Bisexual Group, University House, UEA, Norwich, Norfolk - welcomes non-students

SIGMA: support for relationships where one partner is gay or bisexual. Details LLGS 01-837-7324.

Bisexuals and married gay group. Details: Nigel 01-558-5203 (5.30-10pm)

**ABROAD**

**United States:**

Boston Bisexual Womens' Network, PO Box 639, Cambridge MA02140.

Boston Bisexual Mens' Network, PO Box 1645, Cambridge MA 02238.

East Coast Bisexual Network, PO Box 639, Cambridge MA 02140.

San Francisco Bisexual Centre, 1757 Hayes St. San Francisco CA 94117.
Chicago Bi-Ways, PO Box A333 Q, Chicago ILL 60690.

University of Massachusetts Bisexual Group, Amhurst MA 01002.

New York: Bisexual Support Group c/o Bill Himelhoch, 4861 Broadway, Apt. No. 6-S. NY 10034.

The Bulletin Board, PO Box 8556, New York NY 10150.

**Netherlands:**

Landelijk Netwerk Biseksualiteit Postbus 5087, 1007 AB, Amsterdam or telephone Vroomshoop 05498-44384.

**West Germany:**

Initiative Bisexualler Frauen & Manner, c/o E. Kocher, Am Niddatal 31, D-6000, FRANKFURT-A-M 90. 069- 76 19 43

Die Lade, 'Bi-Initiative', Karl-Marx-Strasse 58, D1000 BERLIN 44. 030-624 37 61. Thurs 11.00 - 13.00

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**America:**

BI WOMEN - newsletter of the BBWN - see Groups

The BI MONTHLY - newsletter of the BBMN - see Groups

**Netherlands:**

Bi-Nieuws - published by the Landelijk Netwerk Bisexualiteit - see Groups

**ADVICE:**

**BISEXUAL PHONELINE:** 031-557 3620 Thursday 7.30-9.30 pm.

London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard (24hrs) 01-837-7324.

London Lesbian Line 01-251 6911.

London Friend helpline 01-837 3337 (7.30-10 pm)
For lesbians & bisexual women 01-281 4970 (Th 7.30-10pm).

AIDS Helpline: Terrence Higgins Trust 01-242 1010 (3-10pm).

GALOP & LESPOP: Gay & Lesbian Police Monitoring Groups 01-278 6215/ 01-833 4996

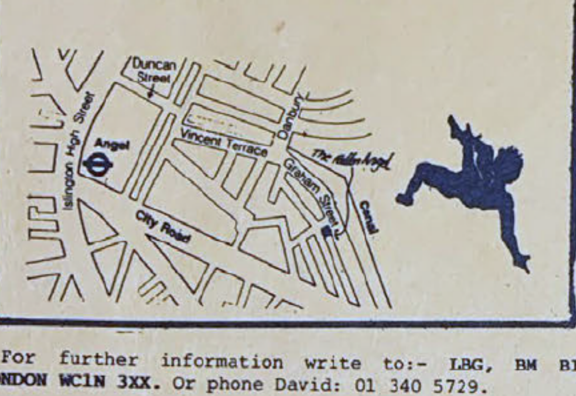
**To Comment on TV programmes:-**

| | |
|---|---|
| **BBC:** Ask for Duty Office | 01 743 8000 |
| 'Open Air' | 061 814 0424 |
| **Thames TV:** Daytime-ask for Viewer's Correspondence,<br>Evenings-ask for Duty Officer | 01 387 9494 |
| **London Weekend Television:**<br>Ask for Viewer's Correspondence | 01 261 3434 |
| **Channel 4:** Ask for Duty Office | 01 631 4444 |
| C4 also have a video box where you can present your views on screen | |
| **TV-am:** Ask for Duty Office | 01 267 4300 |

# LONDON BISEXUAL GROUP

The **London Bisexual Group** meets every Monday evening at 8.30 pm, upstairs at the Fallen Angel (65 Graham St, N1), a friendly pub in Islington. In addition to the events listed below, we run a small **Personal Group**, for new people, where you can discuss any issues you want to raise. The LBG is open to people of all sexual identities, and aims to provide a relaxed, but stimulating atmosphere. Why don't you come and make some new friends!

THE FALLEN ANGEL
HOW TO GET THERE



For further information write to:- **LBG, BM BI, LONDON WC1N 3XX.** Or phone David: 01 340 5729.

| | |
|---|---|
| **APRIL** | |
| Monday 18th | **"TWO OF US" - EXCLUSIVE VIDEO SHOWING,** With producer Roger Tonge and writer Leslie Stuart to discuss their controversial play for schools. |
| Monday 25th | **"BISEXUAL LIFESTYLES".** Press Launch 7 for 7.30pm. **PARTY** 8.30pm to celebrate the launching of this book- see p.6. |
| Saturday 29th | **March on London against Clause 28.** For details see article to the right. |
| **MAY** | |
| Monday 2nd | Open discussion on a topical subject, plus Personal Group, as on most Mondays. |
| Saturday 7th | Monthly planning meeting. 2-4 pm. A friendly welcome for all those who want to help run the group! Refreshments provided, you bring the ideas! |
| Monday 9th | **WOMENS FOCUS** - The 'right on' bisexual. Are you one, do you know one? Is there any such thing? A woman looks at what message if any we absorb as bisexuals from society's treatment of us. |

### CALLING ALL WIMMIN!

On the second Monday of each month, starting in April we will be extending a particularly warm welcome to bisexual wimmin at the London Bisexual Group. Wimmin will organise the meetings, lead discussions and run workshops on themes of particualar relevance to wimmin. Any womyn interested in being involved in planning, or who can offer workshops, ideas for discussions etc, contact Al via LBG.

# Bills WE Cannot Afford

**Clause 28 is not merely an attempt to restrain the excesses of a few 'loony lefty' councils. It is a savage attack on lesbian and gay rights.**

If the courts take it to its full negative potential we will see CENSORSHIP in the arts, counselling and advice services CLOSED DOWN, lesbian and gay pubs and clubs DENIED LICENCES, and an END to the policies of anti-discrimination in the fields of housing, jobs, and education held by some Labour Councils and voluntary organisations.

**It officially sanctions, homophobia, bigotry and violence against us.**

The Clause should not be taken out of context of a whole range of Tory policies which are affecting **every** area of public and private life.

Changes in social security and taxation mean the the poor are getting poorer, the rich richer. The Pole Tax will worsen the situation.

The health service is collapsing. Those with AIDS will not be allowed to live in dignity.

A new Housing Bill will worsen the already horrendous housing crisis.

**The rights of women are under attack:-** the Abortion Bill will force women into having dangerous back street abortions. Artificial insemination for women has been outlawed, making it more difficult for lesbian and bisexual women who want to get pregnant this way.

The Education Bill gives more power to right wing parents, and continues to deny the rights of children to an education they want (including for many the right to learn about homosexuality).

**We are facing a savage free-for-all capitalist system, enforced by a Government that has little regard for Human Rights, and which is trying to enforce 'Victorian Values'.**

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**It is CLAUSE 28, which affects us the most. Join in in the spirited fight-back by lesbians, gays and bisexuals. The BISEXUAL BANNERS will be there on the STOP THE CLAUSE MARCH on 30 April. Please join us at Embankment at 12.00. The march is followed by a rally and festival at Kennington Park, at 3.00.**

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# STOP PRESS

### New Groups

There's a new bisexual group in Glasgow. It meets the last Mon. of every month, at 7.30pm, at Friend's Meeting House, Newton Place, Sauchiehall St, Glasgow. There are also new groups being formed in West Midlands, Newcastle and Ayrshire. Contact the Bisexual Phoneline for info. 031 - 557 3620, Thurs. 7.30 - 9.30pm

### CHE ARE IMPROVING!

Griff Vaughan Williams, of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality was interviewed on Thames TV, on 31st March, about Harringey's document on public consultation regarding 'positive images' in schools. In a strong, but sensible speech he mentioned 'bisexuality' twice!

**Bi-Monthly is writing to both CHE and OLGA to ask them to publish something on their attitude to bisexuality, in the next issue.**

### Spring Break 1988

Plans are afoot to set up a Spring/early Summer break. The idea is that a group of people go away for a week, to explore the topics of interest, and to get to know eachother better.

If you are interested contact:- **Malcolm, BM BI, London WC1N 3XX.**

### Kiljoy Kilroy!

Kilroy approached David Burkle of the LBG for their Clause 28 programme, hoping to find a psychologist saying that homosexuality cannot be induced by promotion. Unfortuantely we were denied another chance to see David on the box as **he expressed the view that promotion of homosexuality will reach the suppressed and repressed parts that prejudice keeps hidden and guilty.**

**COMMENT - This is where bisexual politics and l & g politics seem to differ most at present. We believe homosexuality can and should be promoted!**